

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 28th May 1946.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJULUNGARU) in the Chair.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

I.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I have to announce to the House that the following Message, dated Fort St. George, the 27th May 1946, has been received by me from the Hon. the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly :—

“ ‘ In accordance with Rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Bill to amend the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Act, 1937 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 1946) as passed by the Assembly on the 27th May 1946 and signed by me, for the concurrence of the Council.’ ”

• II.—A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND REMOVAL OF DISQUALIFICATIONS ACT, 1937 (L.A. BILL No. 1 OF 1946).

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The Hon. the Premier will now move the motion standing in his name on the agenda.”

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Sir, I rise to a point of order. The rules require that there should be three days' notice given to the House. As we did not get the required notice before the Bill was put on the agenda, I suggest that the motion proposed for taking the Bill into consideration is not in order.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I may submit for the information of hon. Members that under rules 104 and 112 of the Rules for the Madras Legislative Council, I have dispensed with the three days' notice and have set down this item for the business of the day.”

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Then may I request the Hon. the President to suspend also the rule requiring three days' notice for amendments and enable us to move amendments to the Bill? ”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I received some amendments yesterday and if any hon. Member desires to give notice of amendments now, I will have them admitted.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—“ Mr. President and hon. Members, you are aware that the Salaries Act was passed in 1937 when the Congress Government assumed office in that year and that, when the Government resigned, section 93 of the Government of India Act came into operation, that Act ceased to be in force. That Act has been amended and passed by the Assembly. The

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Hon. the Speaker has forwarded the amended Bill for the concurrence of this House. I therefore move that—

'that Bill to amend the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Act, 1937, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration.'

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“Mr. President, on behalf of the Mulim League Party, I rise to oppose this motion for taking this amending Bill into consideration.

“Sir, the House is aware that the original Act fixing the salaries of Ministers and other persons was passed in 1937 in pursuance of the general policy adopted by the Congress High Command. At that time it was said that the salaries were fixed after due consideration of the situations and conditions in this country and that no higher salary was necessary. In this very House, when the Bill came up for discussion, no less a person than the Rt. Hon'ble Srinivasa Sastri urged the adoption of Rs. 1,000 as the salary of Ministers. Then the Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari said that there was no necessity at all for raising the salary proposed, that Rs. 500 was quite sufficient and that that Rs. 500 together with Rs. 250 in the shape of allowance was the nearest approach even to the salary recommended by the Rt. Hon'ble Sastri. Mr. Rajagopalachari also said that that meant no sacrifice. The Rt. Hon'ble Sastri said that it was a matter of sacrifice and that there was no necessity for sacrifice in the matter of salaries. Mr. Rajagopalachari then reiterated: ‘I see no sacrifice in what we have done. None of us drew high salaries, let me say at once publicly here. So far as we are concerned, there is no sacrifice. We claim to have made no sacrifice.’

“Then again he said with regard to standard of living, ‘So far as we know, in our country and among our people, if we judge the standard of living that we should adopt with the standard of the members of our class, our community, our position in life, our tradition, our culture, our status and all that, if we take that to be the standard of living, I say that the salary that we propose is much higher than the standard of living of the classes from which the Ministers have come or may come hereafter.’ That is what Mr. C. Rajagopalachari said. He not only spoke for the then Ministers, but also for the entire class from which the Ministers were then intended to be drawn according to the Congress standard. Further he said that the salaries fixed were scientifically consistent,—I emphasize the words ‘scientifically consistent’—with the very principles laid down by those who think that the salaries of Ministers should be fixed at a higher figure.

“Then, replying to the debate, Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, who was then the Leader of the House, concurred with Mr. C. Rajagopalachari and said, giving reasons: ‘We always feel that this should be done. For we are out for a drastic cut in the salaries of officers and establishment and in the expenditure on administrative machinery’. I ask, Sir, with what face shall we approach the people to whom we appeal for help, if we raise the scales of pay? Dr. Rajan stated further: ‘With the existing salaries we have to-day

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set a new standard of salaries. Posterity will feel that the standard we have set up in this country will bring in an era of plain living and establish a right proportion between the life of our people and that of the administrators.' Now, I ask what is the reason for raising the salaries now? It is said that the class from which the Ministers are to be drawn, according to Congress standards, was not expected to be living a high standard of life. Dr. Rajan also said that they were setting up a new standard of living. Are they giving up the new standard of living now?

" Sir, I know that in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it has been stated that, on account of the rise in prices, this rise in the salaries has been necessitated. The rise in prices undoubtedly does not necessitate the doubling of salaries. Further, there are 11-15 officers in Government service whose salaries are Rs. 500 and a.m. Rs. 1,000. Have these been doubled? They have been given some allowances—dearness allowance. And if the rise in prices is attributed as the cause for the doubling of your salaries, then I do not think it stands to reason. You may receive only a proportionate increase in your salaries. If not, let the Ministers say from their experience that the standard fixed in 1937 was wrong and that a time has come for a revision of these scales of salaries then fixed by the Congress High Command and enacted into law by the Legislature of the Province. Then I will have no objection. But to say that on account of the increase in the prices, these salaries should be doubled and that the allowances should be raised considerably, does not stand to reason and logic, especially in view of the fact that the salaries proposed for them were much higher than the standard of life of the class from which the Ministers have come or might come in the future according to what Mr. C. Rajagopalachari has said.

' Mr. President, Sir, I am not satisfied that the reason given for the doubling of salaries is quite consistent or right and from that point of view, I oppose this amending Bill. I want them to be consistent. They say they want to set up a new standard of living and, as the Rt. Hon'ble Sastri said, they want to be exemplars of sacrifice. Is this the way to do so? What is the standard of life of the people in this country and what is the salary that the Ministers propose to draw? What is the right proportion between the standard of living of the people and the standard of life of the Ministers? If they think that the salary originally fixed by the Congress High Command was not proper, that it was not commensurate with the standard of life that they have to live and that it was not a proper recompense for the work they have to do, then let them say so. Why should they take shelter under increase in prices? Why don't they say that the Congress was wrong in fixing Rs. 500 and that it is not possible for people of their status to live on that salary? You cannot at one moment say that you want to lead a life of sacrifice and at the next moment say that you want to lead a life of luxury and comfort. You cannot blow hot and cold at the same time. That is why we oppose this amending Bill."

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* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I had no intention of intervening in this debate at this early stage, but I am provoked to do so by the hon. Member who has just sat down. I too, Sir, have got with me the same text of Mr. Sastri's speech from which he has quoted. But I shall use it for a purpose different from that for which he used it. It is true, Sir, my revered leader the Rt. Hon'ble Sastri made some pertinent remarks on the occasion when in 1937, almost nine years ago, a similar Bill was introduced in this House. But in making his suggestions, Mr. Sastri paid a well-deserved tribute to the last Ministry for their desire to set an example of exemplary sacrifice and pleaded hard with the Leader of the House that a time might come when that example of sacrifice might not be possible to be continued for all time to come, as their successors may not be able to deny to themselves to the same extent as that Ministry had done. I feel, Sir, his words were prophetic. To-day we have before us a Bill in which the salary proposed is the one which he suggested nine years ago.

“ Sir, criticism has been levelled in this House, as elsewhere, that these enhanced salaries are not warranted to the extent there has been increase in the cost of living. If we see the index of the cost of living in the City of Madras, it is more than 200 per cent. After all the increase proposed in this Bill is only 100 per cent. I do not think, Sir, that the increase is too much. Moreover we want our Ministers to be free from want and at the same time to uphold the principle of austerity. Freedom from want as well as austerity are combined in fixing this salary at Rs. 1,000. They are not asking Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000. They could have easily asked for that. But because they believe also in the principle of austerity, they have not done so. The word ‘austeriy’ is much in the air and they have always believed and still believe in it. Because the cost of living has risen abnormally high, to the extent it is necessary for them to keep up that very standard of life to which the Hon. C. Rajagopalachari referred, they have accepted the salary of Rs. 1,000. I do not think Sir, we should grudge to pay the Rs. 1,000 asked for by them.

“ Last time also, the Ministry would have fixed a different figure, if there had been no fiat from the higher quarters. This time, evidently, Sir, the High Command has been wiser and has not been imposing its view even in regard to matters such as these, for the cost of living differs in different places. What may be suitable in Bihar may not be suitable in Madras. I do not think, Sir, in fixing these salaries, our Ministry has given up either their ideal of self-denial or of self-sacrifice.

“ Then, Sir, I should like to refer to certain particular clauses in the Bill.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ May I suggest to the hon. Member that the principle of the Bill alone should be discussed now? If he wants to go into the Bill in detail, he may do so when the Bill is discussed clause by clause.”

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* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ I am only making certain remarks, Sir, on the general provisions of the Bill. I am not making any particular reference to any clause. I only wish to speak about the general principle of invidious distinction made between two offices, one the Speaker of the Assembly and the other the President of the Council. I am not going into the details of the salaries proposed. It is only the treatment accorded to the two that I wish to refer to.”

* MR. PRESIDENT :—“ You cannot do that without going into the details of the Bill.”

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ The same distinction has been sought to be made for the first time between the Chief Parliamentary Secretary and the other Parliamentary Secretaries to which also, I have some objection. Sir, if you will kindly permit me, I shall say a word or two on that aspect also.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I am afraid you are again going into the details.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—“ The observations of the hon. Member seem to be of a general nature. He is not, it seems, going into the merits or demerits of individual clauses of the Bill. I think that he may be allowed to go on.”

* MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Please go on.”

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ I see that some of my friends who were Parliamentary Secretaries before, are occupying the Treasury Bench to-day. All of them know what a curious position they occupied as Parliamentary Secretaries. As far as I know, Sir, there is no provision in the statute for the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries. During the debate in the Joint Parliamentary Committee, a suggestion was made that Parliamentary Secretaries might be appointed to assist the Ministers. Perhaps it might be due to this suggestion that they are appointed. But when it came to the question of actual assistance, I think the Parliamentary Secretaries were of no use. I shall not be exposing any secret when I say that Parliamentary Secretaries could not note on a file. Parliamentary Secretaries do not get files from the Secretariat. . They cannot write any note on any file except on a separate piece of paper for the information of the Minister concerned and that piece of paper has to be removed from the file before it is returned to the Secretariat. Some of the Parliamentary Secretaries were vegetating. Some of the Ministers were not anxious to know what they were doing and how they were spending their time. Some Parliamentary Secretaries were wise enough to busy themselves with other subjects and did what they could to assist poor people who had representations to make to the Government. I think, Sir, that unless there is a change in the policy and it is made clear that Parliamentary Secretaries will have some definite functions, there is no use in making these appointments. The other day I read in the newspapers, and I am sure all of you have read the same, one gentleman who was a Parliamentary

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Secretary himself, characterized the job as a sinecure job. (Laughter.) Unfortunately he held the sinecure job till the Congress Ministry resigned. But what he meant was that these Parliamentary Secretaries did no work, were merely drawing their salaries, going about with the Ministers and remaining in attendance on them. I wish, Sir, the Ministry would come to a certain agreement with the Secretariat or change the rules of the Secretariat so that these Parliamentary Secretaries can be of real assistance to them and then only make these appointments. Or else they will be merely a butt of ridicule. It is not fair to the hon. Members of either House to be talked about in the streets or in the Press in the manner we talked about these Parliamentary Secretaries in 1937-38. It is not consistent with the dignity and self-respect of the Members of this Legislature. I would like the Ministry to settle first what work the Parliamentary Secretaries should do, to what extent they could peruse the files. If necessary, they may be asked to take an oath of secrecy to their own bosses though not to the Governor, if files cannot be shown to them otherwise. Or, there are many files which are not secret at all, the orders on which even the peons in the Secretariat know much earlier than they are issued. I would like something to be done, so that my hon. Friends may not be criticized in the public for accepting the posts of Parliamentary Secretaries which they do, I know, in all sincerity, to be of some assistance to the Government in the management of its affairs.

“ Now that you have allowed me to say something about other things, may I again revert to the distinction sought to be made between the Chief Parliamentary Secretary and the other Parliamentary Secretaries? We have heard of the Chief Justice, the Chief Secretary and the Chief Minister. But working as we do in a democracy—at any rate the Ministry is a democratic one, there is no distinction between the Chief Minister and other Ministers—why create this new distinction between the Chief Parliamentary Secretary and other Parliamentary Secretaries? Why give room for unnecessary distinctions which we want to abolish as early as possible? This is a new feature which we find in this amending Bill which did not find a place in the Bill brought forward by Sri C. Rajagopalachariar. I do not want that there should be any kind of discontent. There should be team work even among Parliamentary Secretaries as there is team work between Ministers in carrying on the administration of the Province. I wish Sir, the Prime Minister will reconsider this point even though it is in the Bill, before actually giving effect to it, and see there is no distinction. I have no objection to one of the Secretaries being called the Chief Parliamentary Secretary without the Statute recognizing him as something superior by paying him a hundred rupees more.

“ As you have allowed me to talk about the President of the Council and the Speaker of the Assembly, I should like to say, Sir, that I feel that the august office you hold—without any offence to the

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hon. Speaker of the Assembly—is a higher office. If a joint session of the two Houses is held, it is you, Sir, who should preside and not the Speaker of the Assembly. That shows the higher status your office occupies. We would like, Sir, that you should at least be put on a par with the Speaker of the Assembly, so that your dignity and status also may be maintained. But there are people who say that salaries do not count in maintaining dignity and status. All that is bunkum, Sir. They do count. Let us recognize that you too have to maintain a certain status in this City of Madras and it behoves the Government to see that you are able to maintain it considering the sacrifice you have made in order to occupy this high office. I would like these distinctions are removed from the Bill as far as possible, both in regard to the Chief Parliamentary Secretary and the President of the Council. I again repeat, Sir, that this institution of Parliamentary Secretaries need not be brought into existence unless something definite is settled about the nature of the work they should do. Thank you very much, Sir, for the indulgence you have shown to me."

* ABDUL LATEEF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill that is presented by my hon. Friend the Premier to this House. With regard to the increase in the salaries of the Ministers, the hon. Speaker, hon. President, Deputy Speaker, Deputy President, Parliamentary Secretaries and Members of the Legislature, we have to view this question in the background of the acceptance of office by the Congress Party in 1937. We all know, Sir, that before the Act of 1935 came into operation, the Ministers were receiving salaries in thousands. They were receiving salaries equal to those of the Members of the Executive Council of the Governor and Parliamentary Secretaries were also receiving fat salaries. When the Congress Party came into power they felt—and perhaps it was their election manifesto—that under the conditions in which the Indians lived, the poor people not even having one full meal a day, it was wrong on their part to burden the tax-payer and receive more salaries. My hon. Friend the Premier was a party to that decision. Now, Sir, let it not be said that what the Congress Party had done under the able leadership of that great South Indian, Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar when he was the Premier to ameliorate the conditions of the masses, has now been undone by the Prakasam Ministry.' This Bill is flung as a surprise upon the people to increase the salaries of Ministers and others because it is in their power to increase their salaries. What would have been their fate if it had been in the hands of other people to consider the question of increasing their salaries, as it is in their hands to consider the question of increasing the salaries of other Government servants? They have not increased the salaries of Government servants. I may tell you, Sir, that people receiving Rs. 100 and more are getting only an increase of 17½ per cent. My hon. Friend who just sat down said that the cost of living has increased by 200 per cent and therefore it is no wonder the Ministers should

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get at least 100 per cent increase. I say, that is the very reason why the Ministers should not get more, because they will be taxing the poor more on account of the fact that they have decided to receive more salaries. The very fact that the cost of living has increased, the very fact that the tax-payer, the already overburdened tax-payer, is being burdened more and more everyday, establishes that it is the duty of the Ministers to see that what was decided for them in the way of salaries in 1937 should continue. The consolidated sum of Rs. 750, Rs. 500 as salary, Rs. 100 as house-rent allowance and Rs. 150 as conveyance allowance, is quite sufficient not only for the necessities of life but also for other amenities and perhaps even for some luxuries. I do not grudge the Premier or any other Minister, or any other gentleman sitting on the opposite side getting more money, some of them are my very good friends, but I would very much wish that their income is augmented by some other resources. (Laughter.) But I say, as public service is public service, they have no right to receive more than what was intended for them in 1937. 'Changed circumstances' are put forth as an argument for the increase. What are the changed circumstances and conditions? Are there not millions of other people living in this country? Are the 'changed circumstances' only for a few Ministers, a few Parliamentary Secretaries and without any disparagement to you, Sir, for the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the President and the Deputy President? Are these the only people who are affected by the 'changed circumstances'? 'Changed circumstances' affect not only the Members of this House and the other House, but the whole country. Perhaps much more than money, what is difficult is to get things. People having money find it difficult to get things. The question of 'changed circumstances' does not arise and even if it does arise, it does not warrant any increase in salaries, but on the other hand the retention of the salaries as they stood in 1937.

"The analogy of Ministers in other Provinces drawing more was quoted. In the other House when Begum Amiruddin was speaking, some hon. Members interrupted her by saying 'what about Bengal and Sind'. First of all, when considering a particular question in a particular province, we need not refer to conditions in other Provinces. (An hon. Member from the Government Benches: It is inconvenient.) Not inconvenient. I am going to answer that point in a way which is going to be inconvenient to the hon. Members of the opposite benches. You are the gentlemen, not the Muslim League, who said that your cost of living will be very small, your tastes, habits and mode of living will be very simple, that a handful of groundnuts and a tumbler of buttermilk would do for your food and that a loin cloth would be sufficient for your clothing. The Muslim League Ministers did not claim that. They did not say that they would be content with a few hundred rupees. Therefore the question of comparison with other Provinces does not arise. Let us look at the conditions in our Province. Our Province is a province which from all accounts is threatened by a severe

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famine and hence I do not see any reason why the Ministers and other Members of the Legislature should draw increased salaries. Now, if they want to do so, I only make one submission and that submission is: let there be an all-round increase so far as the Government servants are concerned and that increase should be proportionate to the increase that is going to be made with regard to the salaries and allowances of the Ministers and other Members of this Legislature. That is one point. The other point is that legislation should be passed to the effect that employers should give at least 100 per cent increase in wages to their employees. Of course I do not pretend to speak on behalf of labourers. Some other members sitting opposite may say, 'we are labour leaders'. I feel it is but just that if we want more for us, we should agree that more should be given to others also. What we want for ourselves, we should give to others also. What we want others to give to us, we should be prepared to give to others. Unless that is done, there will be no justification for passing this Bill and then to go out to the world and say that we are popular representatives.

"Now, Sir, a reference was made—you will kindly excuse me, Sir,—to the High Command of the Congress. For my part. I will not be concerned with the High Command or Low Command or anybody outside this Legislature so long as I am here in this House. My hon. Friend who just spoke before me said that the High Command was wise in permitting the increase in salaries. The Hon. Mr. Prakasam is reported to have said in the other House that the Congress High Command knew the conditions all over India and after giving the whole matter their fullest consideration have decided that Congress Ministers might take a salary of Rs. 1,500 including all allowances. If that is wisdom and if they are going to follow that wisdom, the less said of the Congress High Command the better. In any case, it does not lie in the mouth of the Congress Party in Madras to quote the High Command in their support after having flouted their decisions, rejected their recommendations and after all their good advice has fallen on their deaf ears. To speak of the High Command now simply for the sake of increasing their salaries is, I think, morally wrong. (Laughter.) We the Muslim League Party here feel that it will not be right on our part to consent to the increase in salaries. I ask my hon. Friends opposite who claim to be the friends of the poor, who, although for the moment, may be immune from public criticism, will one day have to face the electorate and seek their franchise, and cannot for ever escape the day of reckoning, with what face they will ask for the renewed confidence of the people after having, for selfish interests, for increasing their own comforts and luxuries, passed this Salaries Bill, while at the same time denying to others not only luxuries and amenities but bare necessities of life? We have denied the rights of others. We have no business just at the very outset of our work—we have met here only for the last three days and not much important work have we done—to enact a measure which affects the purses and the lives of the poor people of this country. Faced with the threat of

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starvation and death, the people look to the Hon. Ministers to ameliorate their condition and to the hon. Members of the Legislature to espouse their cause. Instead of doing all we can for the betterment of the people, if at the very outset we try to look to our own convenience and comforts, I think the people will be justified if they come to the conclusion that this Ministry has failed in its duty hopelessly and that what it has done is morally unjust and materially criminal. With these words, Mr. President, I oppose the Bill."

SRI RAO BAHADUR D. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" Mr. President, I rise to support the official Bill now before the House. It is very easy and simple for me to criticise the Bill and make a perfervid appeal to the public and say that the country is starving, that a famine is threatening and that the Ministers also should starve themselves. The salary of Rs. 500 was fixed in 1937 with respect to the conditions which were prevailing then. But much water has flown under the bridges since then. The purchasing power of the rupee has fallen to a third. What could be bought for 5 annas 3 pies in those days can now be bought only for a rupee and more. I do not belong to the Ministerial Party nor am I here to support their policy and programme. I am only examining the proposals in a dispassionate manner. The salary that was fixed in 1937 was fixed on a standard of sacrifice. The Ministers were expected to maintain the dignity of their position and dedicate themselves to their work. It was then thought that Rs. 500 was enough for them to make both ends meet. But now the purchasing power of the rupee has fallen considerably. If the Ministers should not be forced to borrow or sell away their properties, they should be provided with a decent living wage to enable them to live in Madras and attend to their duties. Rupees 1,000 is not an excessive sum in any view of the matter. Heads of Departments are paid substantial salaries and the Ministers who are above them must be paid at least Rs. 1,000. It may be said that the salaries of the staff have not been raised considerably. No doubt they are paid some war allowance but that does not solve the problem. But because there is a problem which requires solution by the Congress Ministers, it is not reasonable to ask the Congress Ministers to take a starvation wage and not be able to discharge their duties comfortably and with dignity. If it is a question of a Sanyasin or mendicant or persons who have no other source of income or business, I can understand asking them to be content with a low salary. People can live even on Rs. 75 a month. People can live, as an hon. Member said, on groundnut and jaggery. But do you expect your Ministers to do their best to solve the grave problems of the country while they are starving? Is not a Minister to have a comfortable house? Is not a Minister to have his stomach full? Is he not to be in a position to buy the necessary clothes for himself and his near and dear? If his domestic environments are uncomfortable, how can you expect him to apply his mind to the solution of the several problems? A seer of milk which was selling at 4 annas formerly is now sold at 12 annas. The same is

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the case with cloth including khaddar. It is not as if Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar introduced a very effective and economic measure, nor can it be said that the Hon. Mr. Prakasam is indulging in extravagance by increasing the salaries of Ministers. The question should be considered in an impartial manner. The Ministry should be given a chance and an opportunity to show that they can discharge their duties satisfactorily. My hon. Friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao said that the Parliamentary Secretaries had no work. That is a stock complaint. The Parliamentary Secretaries themselves were sometimes saying that they were holding sinecure posts. It is for the Hon. Mr. Prakasam to examine the matter carefully and give them sufficient work, so that they might justify the salaries drawn by them. I do not deny that the country is poor, it is unfortunately so. If famine is threatening us, we have to find ways and means of averting it. On that account we cannot ask the executive to starve and do their best. I therefore earnestly recommend that the Ministry should be allowed a free scope and given sufficient opportunity to work out their programmes and solve the several problems facing the country. One of the problems is the increase in salaries of police constables, village officers and karnams who are now paid very poor wages. The Ministry must find the ways and means to increase their salaries. If, by the grace of God, good fortune or luck, prices come down and living becomes cheaper, it is open to us and also to the Ministry to come forward with proposals for a cut in the salary of Ministers. For the present I heartily support this Bill and appeal to all hon. Members not to be swayed by mere sentiment or sensation but consider the question on its own merits and vote for the Bill."

* MR. R. W. THEOBALD :—" Sir, I rise to support the Bill. 12
There is one dangerous point, that is the reason given for the noon.
increase. The way I look at the question is this: anybody either here or in Europe—wherever they are—running the Government have an exceedingly tough job to do and therefore they should have no financial embarrassments whatsoever. If, out of idealism or out of reasons probably valid at that time, the Ministers took salaries which were completely inadequate for the work they had to do, that is a matter of past history. To-day they ask for Rs. 1,000 a month; they may ask probably for Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 per month. We want the best from them; we want their brains, able to tackle all the great problems that are facing this province. This province, we have been told, is facing food famine; I am absolutely certain that that problem will be solved and that there will be no famine, but we must have the very best brains able to tackle the problem quickly.

"The Ministers ask for a small increase in their salaries; to try to bring in the question of the poor and the starving is, to my mind, ridiculous. If you add all the salaries of the Ministers and compare the amount with the total revenue of the province, it will not exceed a small percentage of the total. There is this to be

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remembered. It is quite wrong, I feel, to associate the increase in the salaries which the Ministers ask for, with the increase to be paid to Government servants. Government servants did not say in 1937 'we are nice people; we are going to work for nothing'; they said 'we are doing men's jobs and we want men's pay'. While the Government Ministers ask for an increase to-day, Government servants are not entitled to have their pay increased, because they did not start—if I may say so—on ridiculously low salaries in the year 1937; they started on reasonable salaries. We ought to be careful not to bring in the question of increases to ordinary Government servants or anybody else; what we are now voting for is an increase to the Ministry and Members of the two Legislative bodies. The two cases are not at all comparable; they are absolutely different; I feel that I must press the point that there is no comparison at all; whether the High Command has ordered anything or not is to my mind nothing; the Ministers in our province to-day have decided to work for us on salaries which, I consider, are very reasonable indeed. They have put forward only twice the previous salary and I feel we should vote for the increase with alacrity."

* SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I wish to make the following remarks, while supporting the motion. The Congress Ministry when they first assumed office, wanted to make the people understand that they were in favour of cutting short the extravagant expenses incurred by their predecessors in office in the matter of salary, etc. They accordingly arrived at a figure which was ridiculously low. It is admitted in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that owing to the great increase in the cost of living, the salaries and allowances fixed in 1937 have been inadequate and it is accordingly proposed to increase them to the minimum extent necessary.

"To maintain their prestige and dignity and to be free from want, it is necessary to raise the figure. In so doing, will it not be better for you to say that the salary is trebled or even increased four times without making mention of the word 'allowance.' After doubling the salary the allowance is 50 per cent of the salary. I feel it is an indirect way of further increasing the salary. I further understand that the word 'allowance' is used for car in order to evade income-tax. Does car allowance include major repairs to car, change of tyres, etc.? Who is to pay insurance charge in case the car is to be insured, since it is Government car.

"I appeal to the Ministry and request them to take very early steps to revise the salary of their low-paid staff, when the necessity to increase their salary, etc., is felt by the Ministers. I can tell you, Sir, the low-paid staff cannot get on for a long time. Famine in every direction will surround them, if you do not see eye to eye with them and increase their salaries."

* MR. K. O. ANTONY :—" Sir, I also rise to support the principle that has been embodied in the Bill, for the adoption of which the Hon. Premier has moved. I agree with those who have

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already spoken before me, that the basis on which this Bill should be considered is not the increase in the cost of living. I do not want to consider what the High Command or any other body else says. The present Ministry has felt that what was done in 1937 was done as an act of idealism. If the present Ministry has come down from those ethereal regions to the mundane sphere, we should congratulate them. They have become more realistic. I certainly feel that they deserve congratulations for that. A salary of Rs. 1,500 a month, I consider is a living wage for a Minister. We should give a living wage to every one. I am opposed to increasing the number of the rich and the wealthy men in our country and multiplying the have-nots in our country. All our efforts in this country should be directed to increase and multiply a strong and sturdy middle class. I do not think that, by giving the proposed salary to the Ministers, we are going to increase the number of the very rich in our country. I feel that, for the very hard job they have to do, they deserve the salary they ask for. I take it, therefore, that the justification for the increase is not principally the increased cost of living. There is something, I admit, in that argument but I think it is based on the sense of realism that has dawned on the Ministry.

“ My hon. Friend who spoke on behalf of the Muslim League made much of the relief that could be given to the poor by the Ministers receiving the old level of salary. What does this amount to? Symbolically I understand its meaning. But in actual practice, is there anything much in it? Personally I do not think there is any meaning in connecting the poverty of the masses in our country with the increase of salaries to the Ministry. Famine has been referred to. I do not believe there is any connexion whatsoever between famine and the present Bill. The present Bill is intended to ensure a decent standard of living to the Ministers and every man of goodwill should support it.

“ It is said that the passing of this Bill will have repercussion on the Government servants, and that, if this Bill is adopted here, Government servants should be given higher salaries. I have got every sympathy for the under-paid men in Government service, but there seems to be too much fuss being made of this aspect in certain parts of this House. What about the millions of other people who are not in Government service? Certain hon. Members do not seem to think of them. You cannot deny the fact that in our country Government service is to-day the most privileged service; there are people in other services who have not got many of the various privileges that are given to Government servants. I do not think that the salaries of the Ministers are being put at such a high level that it is likely to have any repercussion on Government servants, especially in the higher ranks. It is well-known that the highly-paid Government servants in our country are probably the best paid men in the service of any country. For these reasons I support the principle of the Bill. We have been taught ‘ Give unto Caesar what is Caesar’s.’ In giving a living wage to the Ministers, I believe we are only doing our duty.

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"I must associate myself, Sir, with the sentiments expressed by my friend, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, in regard to the invidious distinction that has been sought to be made in the Bill between the conditions attached to your office and that of the Speaker of the Assembly. I would like to know from the hon. Premier whether the salaries are fixed on a piece-work wages basis as we call it in industrial language. I do not know whether it is on the basis of the amount of time spent by the Speaker in the discharge of his work, that he is paid higher salary and given better conditions. I do not know what considerations have entered into the matter; I should like to be enlightened on this. I must also support Mr. Suryanarayana Rao's remarks about Parliamentary Secretaries. If there is no job of work for them to do, let us not have them; if there is a job of work for them to do, let us have them and let us know what their duties are. With these words I support the motion."

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LT.-COL. K. R. K. AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I would like to support this amendment. At the outset, I may say it is easy to criticise any Bill that is brought forward by the Government; but there must be some justification for criticism. Some of the members said that in 1937 the Ministers took only Rs. 500. Yes; it was quite right then; it is also quite right now for the Ministers to claim Rs. 1,000 because the cost of living has gone up and we must see that the Ministers are given a living wage, a minimum wage; and we should all help them in every way instead of putting obstacles in their way. They have just come into power; let us not hinder them in their progress."

"With these few words, Sir, I have much pleasure in supporting the amendment brought forward by the Hon. the Chief Minister to-day."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The Hon. Sri Prakasam."

ABDUL LATEEF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"We want to move some amendments, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"Such amendments as are given to me before the Premier finishes his speech, I will take up."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—"Mr. President, I thank all those hon. Members who have supported the Bill generally. I thank also all those members who have opposed the Bill for the reasons given by them; because it is refreshing to find that the opposition is led by hon. Members of the League Party. The only point which they urge is that in the past, that is ten years ago, when the Bill was originally passed into law, only half this amount, i.e., Rs. 500 was fixed, and they ask, why should it be raised now to double the amount. One principle has been uniformly observed in preparing this amendment at the present juncture and so far as the Madras Legislature is concerned, the increment proposed has been made to apply not merely to the Ministers or the Parliamentary Secretaries but to all the members of the Houses as well. You may all remember what amount is being paid to

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each member of a Legislature in other countries; we have not attempted to adopt their standards either in the past or now. During the last ten years, what changes have come upon the country every one knows. Every one knows also how much it costs in Madras to live and stay here for doing duty for the people in the Legislature. Perhaps some of us here have known the trouble to which ordinary people have been put during the last four or five days on account of the hotel workers' strike; that has now added to the difficulties of the members of the Legislature too. Even when there was no strike, people can easily imagine the troubles that the legislators are put to, staying in the City, paying for their boarding and lodging. Ordinarily one will have to take into account all these troubles; but now, in every respect, the cost of living has risen everywhere, all over the country. That is one reason which prompted the Congress High Command to fix the amount of the Minister's salary at Rs. 1,500 and other allowances also. The Congress High Command has come in here for some petty criticism. The Congress High Command has never been generally careless in the conduct of its affairs. When it comes to the question of a living for every one in the country and when the Congress workers had been undergoing all kinds of troubles during the last 25 years—the hon. Mr. Farooki also was once inside the jail and he knew something of it”

ABDUL LATEEF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Thank you very much for the information, Sir.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—“ Yes; but he has not known recently what jail life is and what the cost of living is to-day. He should have been in the Amraoti jail with some of us—a little tiny jail where there was not sufficient space even fit for human habitation. We congressmen were in jail everywhere. You may attack the Congress for your own reasons several times; but one must acknowledge that it is the Congress that has been labouring hard, with all their men put into jails, in the service of the country to secure freedom. I do not say that others have not been making any effort. The country as a whole has been struggling for freedom and of course those who were in jail did service from their own point of view, while those who were outside the jail were also making their contribution towards that end. It is because of such co-ordination and co-operation, leaving aside small differences and a few sections or a few groups, that we have been able to make progress. It is not an easy matter in a country like ours for putting up a continuous struggle, not for one year or for two years, but for 25 long years, and we have now reached a particular stage. Even at this stage we have got still some impediments put before us. I may say it is a matter of great satisfaction for me and to all of us and those who think with me, that the Muslim League friends in Madras, leaving aside the other parts of the country, have come to think and begun to preach that we must accept a low sum as salary and live a simple and honest life. To that extent, the Muslim League friends have come to

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think with us. What have we done? In 1937 a certain scale was prescribed by my hon. friend Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar as Prime Minister. That was considered sufficient at that time and that was also the standard fixed at that time and under those circumstances. Now, after nearly ten years, although we know exactly what has happened to this country and to the world generally on account of the war, we have not begun to reap the after-effects of the war. The after-effects of the war will be reaped by us only after a few more years, as was done after the first War. That time has not yet come; and yet unfortunately for most of the provinces even before the closing of the war, the food and cloth famine have overtaken this country. This country particularly, a country where enough food can be grown, not merely for the forty crores of our people, but also for being given to other countries, is now compelled to look to Washington, Britain and other places for getting rice. What rice is being got here, how people are living, how people are complaining in every place where this imported rice which is not fit for human consumption is being distributed—hon. Members should be able to imagine exactly how the country and the people are living to-day, when they simply attack this Bill. It is only under such difficult conditions that this Government have come into office. It is the duty of this Government to see that the salary which the Ministers propose to take to-day, viz., Rs. 1,000 is taken by them not for the sake of mere luxury or enjoyment, but for the work which the Ministers would have to do. The work which the Ministers have to do now is different from what they did in the past; and the work which the Parliamentary Secretaries would have to do, when they come into existence, let me assure the House, would not be the same as that which the Parliamentary Secretaries in the past had been doing. I am confident that every one of the Parliamentary Secretaries would be doing work which will be to the satisfaction of every one of you and would show that the money which they would take when they come into office is not for a sinecure appointment. What work we have before us, all of you know to-day. For every one of us, there is so much work to do. Every one of us, not only the Ministers, not only the Parliamentary Secretaries, not alone the Members of this Council or the Members of the Assembly, but even those outside, all of us, with the full co-operation of the people must get over this famine in the first place—famine of food and cloth we must get over. After getting over it, we can think of other things. I heard one hon. Member say that we can easily get over the food trouble and the cloth trouble; I am also confident of it, because I am feeling certain that everybody to-day is realising the situation. After we started to state the position in the country and after the Government began to explain the position in the country for some time now, people have begun to think about it. Hereafter we must not merely think about it, but we must seriously tackle it. It is with that view that we have found out the difficulties; we came into office in the belief that whatever troubles may crop up, we must just see

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through them with the co-operation of every one. That is why the members' salaries were fixed at Rs. 75 in the past—which was a pittance according to me—and that amount was accepted by you. And having lived for over two and a half years with that amount and realised the actual position, they have found it necessary to fix the amount at Rs. 150 now. Members of the Legislature are not expected to get their tickets of admission to the Council or the Assembly, to attend the meetings here and make speeches and then go back to the country and live a comfortable life in their homes. Every member who has been returned by the electors is expected to do all that is necessary to show that the electors' requirements have been properly attended to, that their wants have been redressed by them. There have been members who spent their own money whenever they went out into the country for doing people's work. Therefore, we thought that the members' salaries must be doubled. When some members even wanted to raise it to Rs. 200, because of our policy of doubling the old amount and because we did not want to make it extravagant, we fixed it at Rs. 150 for the members.

“ One remark was made about the salary of the Chief Parliamentary Secretary; why should he have been given a Rs. 100 more? Just wait and see who that Chief Parliamentary Secretary would be when he comes into office and the work he would be doing, and whether he would deserve Rs. 100 more than the other Parliamentary Secretaries or not. You can judge then, and if you do not feel he is competent to do his duties, you can then remove the Rs. 100 from his salary.

“ Then, something was stated about the President's salary. That question could not be debated here; but I may say that if it is found necessary without any flattery to you, Sir, that the President's salary should be doubled in the future, this House will not hesitate, this Government will not hesitate, to take the necessary steps to carry out the decision. As it is, we have doubled it on the same principle as in the case of the other offices. Therefore, I submit that the main thing upon which it is based was the rise in prices. Prices of not only food articles have risen, but the prices of everything relating to the existence of men have risen to such an abnormal extent that the people could not make both ends meet. No doubt, they are living and they are bound to live. I know people are living on anything which they can get from plants or other such things. Let us only hope that Madras would not become another Bengal where people died in streets for want of more food. It is for that purpose that we are all struggling here just now. I do not think I should be labouring this matter very long as all aspects of the matter have been dealt with on both sides. But so far as the Opposition is concerned, they have still got a feeling in their minds that the Congress has violated its principles. I say that the Congress has not violated its principles in regard to this question of salaries. The Congress High Command has been doing everything according to conditions and circumstances and they know the conditions not only of Madras

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but also of every other Presidency and they would be the last persons to prescribe a salary of Rs. 1,000 together with allowances. What happened was the Congress gave that freedom. You may take it from me that as a matter of discipline, the Congress High Command has not laid down any rule. In the United Provinces they have fixed the salaries of Ministers at Rs. 1,000, in Bihar at Rs. 1,500 and in Orissa at Rs. 1,000."

KHAN BAHADUR V. HAMEED SULTAN MARICAIR SAHIB
BAHADUR:—"What about Bombay?"

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"In Bombay also there is not much difference. They adopted Rs. 850 as salary plus house allowance. I would like the hon. Member to go to Bombay and see where the Ministers are living. There the Ministers are provided with houses both at Bombay and in Poona, whereas there is nothing provided here or in Ootacamund. The rent for a building is much more than Rs. 250. Therefore, you should not suppose that we have in any way fixed our salaries higher than others in other Provinces. Even here, if there should be such an accommodation provided for the Ministers at Government cost, we have no objection to forego the rent and an amendment was put in yesterday to that effect. So, I say, examined from any point of view, we have not in any way violated the principle which the Congress has enunciated. Howevermuch you may all say that people require more to live in comfort, we are all pledged to the view that we must be doing the best thing in the interests of the people without caring much for our own comforts.

"Sir, ten years ago, it was fixed at Rs. 500 and now it is fixed at Rs. 1,000 and for that the whole speech of Mr. C. Rajagopalachari was quoted pointing out that it was laid down not only for that time but also for future generations. In understanding that speech, we must also be reasonable and must be reasonable also in interpreting and expressing our views on that speech. Why was it fixed at Rs. 500 in 1937 and why is it fixed at Rs. 1,000 now. The reason for that is, the cost of living has increased; no other reason. Now, if only the conditions existing at present disappear, normal conditions are restored and people begin to live a normal life, this Ministry—if it were in office—would not be receiving Rs. 1,000 but their salary would be automatically reduced to suit the prevailing conditions. We do not believe in unnecessarily taxing the payer and taxing the people in any manner. So, bearing in mind that we should have a living wage,—it must be understood that a man should be paid adequately for the work he has to perform and for doing brain work he should get fresh air, light and good food—hon. Members will please say how much one has to spend to get all these things. You should not fix it on a moral principle and say you should live on the salary fixed at that time or this. That is not a reasonable position to take. Though I would like to congratulate the hon. Members for the spirit they have shown in criticising and opposing the Bill, yet I should point out that they missed the main point on this matter.

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I am, however, thankful to the hon. Members for the services they have rendered."

The motion was put and carried, and the Bill was taken into consideration.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Yesterday two amendments to the Bill were received, one by the hon. Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu to this effect, namely :—

'Add the following, numbering it as clause (3) to section 4 of Madras Act IX of 1937 :—

" There shall be paid to the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly and in the Council a salary of Rs. 500 and Rs. 300, respectively per mensem."

and the other amendment by the hon. Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rao, viz.—

'In the proposed clause 4 of the Bill insert—

" a salary of one thousand per mensem " in the place of
" a salary of five hundred per mensem."

In respect of the above two amendments, I have to inform the House that these two amendments seek to impose an additional burden on the finances of the province and so they offend against section 82 of the Government of India Act and they require the sanction of the Governor before they can be discussed in the House. I therefore rule them out of order."

Some other amendments have also been received.

Clause 2.

* ABDUL LATEEF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, I move my first amendment, viz.—

'In clause 2 of the Bill, in paragraph 2, omit the words
" a house rent allowance of rupees two hundred and fifty".'

" Sir, I do not propose to make any speech on this amendment because we have already had sufficient discussion on it, but I still feel that the sum of Rs. 1,000 which the Ministers propose to take as their salary is sufficient to provide for themselves a house also. People who are getting a salary of Rs. 1,000 a month do not claim another Rs. 250 for their house rent. In this connexion I would like to point out that what was fixed for the . . . "

* SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAYUDU (Deputy President) :—
" On a point of Order, Sir, the Premier must first move the clause and the hon. Member can move his amendment only after that. I therefore think that the hon. Member cannot move his amendment at this stage."

* ABDUL LATEEF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I thank the hon. the Deputy President for the correction."

SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I think the procedure is for the Hon. President to put clause by clause."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I was also of the same opinion. I thought it was my business to put the clauses to vote."

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* ABDUL LATEEF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ What I was saying was this, Sir. The Salaries of Ministers were fixed in Act IX of 1937, which it is now proposed to be amended and the Ministers now think it fit to receive Rs. 1,000. I feel that a consolidated amount of Rs. 750 is sufficient even under changed conditions. I felt that increase in the prices of commodities was envisaged even at that time by Mr. C. Rajagopalachari who was then the Premier and to whose advice, to whose suggestions and decisions the other Ministers including the Hon. the Premier now have consented. Therefore I feel I need not add anything further.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I do not think what Mr. C. Rajagopalachari said in 1937 should bind this Ministry. He may advance his own argument if any.”

* ABDUL LATEEF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ I did not mean, Sir, that it should be binding on this Ministry. What I said was the possibility of a rise in prices in future was also envisaged when Rs. 750 was fixed for the ministers at that time and that date has now come. So, I consider that even under present circumstances that amount would have been sufficient, but the Ministers are now going to take even more. I think Rs. 1,000 as salary may be given, but no house rent allowance need be given to the Ministers. I therefore move my amendment.”

The amendment was duly seconded.

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—“ Since the hon. Member himself has stated that the whole matter has been discussed already and since he has advanced no fresh arguments, there is nothing for me to reply to the amendment. I therefore oppose the amendment.”

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 2 of the Bill was put and carried.

Clause 3.

* ABDUL LATEEF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Mr. President, I move—

‘ In clause 3, insert “ a salary of rupees five hundred per mensem, a house rent allowance of rupees two hundred and fifty per mensem and a conveyance allowance of rupees two hundred and fifty per mensem ” instead of the following : “ a salary of rupees one thousand per mensem, a house rent allowance of rupees two hundred and fifty and a conveyance allowance of rupees two hundred and fifty per mensem ” .’

Sir, my object in proposing the amendment is that I want that the rights and privileges of this House ought to be safeguarded. I know that you are the guardian of the rights and privileges of this House. But as Members of this House, we feel that the President of this body should be getting more than is provided for him in the Bill and at the same time should be placed on a footing of equality with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. As you

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are aware, Sir, we are wedded to a policy of not increasing the salaries and allowances of the Ministers, Speaker or other functionaries. We feel however that consistent with our policy, the Hon. President of this august and venerable House should be placed on a par with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I do not want to draw distinctions between the other House and this one as to whether this House is the greater or more respectable than the other House. All I wish to say is that the President of this House should be placed on a footing of equality with the Speaker of the Lower House. I feel, Sir, that the President should not be made to feel or at any rate people outside should not say that the President of the Upper House is getting less than the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. For this reason, I suggest the amendment for the acceptance of the Hon. the Premier and I believe that on account of the reasonableness of the amendment, he will accept it, if he is not adamant and is not inclined to feel that because his party is in a majority whatever he says ought to be accepted. If he yields to reason, I believe there is no difficulty in his accepting this amendment. It is another matter if he in his wisdom feels—I do not want to propose it—that the Ministers and the Speaker should be getting Rs. 1,000 monthly; all I want is that there should be equality as between the Speaker and the President of the two Houses so far as remuneration goes and it is with that object that I have proposed the amendment."

* KHAN BAHADUR SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I second the amendment."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" Mr. President, there may be reason and very good reason for an hon. Member to propose the enhancement of the salary and allowances of an officer to the level to which the salary of some others had been fixed. But here, Sir, we see quite a reversal of the ordinary methods. I am asking my hon. Friend to consider whether if he is not able to get what he wanted, he should propose that another man's salary must be cut so that they would be on a par with each other. The hon. Member referred to the dignity of the House. I feel, Sir, that it is very bad logic and that the amendment has been written up in a hurry and supported without reason."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 3 was put and carried.

Clause 4.

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Mr. President, may I appeal to the Hon. the Premier, though my amendment has been ruled out of order, whether he would consider the views expressed from all sections of the House in favour of a salary of Rs. 500 per mensem and accept the figure himself on his own volition? "

The Hon. the Premier expressing disapproval, the clause (clause 4) was put and carried.

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Clause 5.

ABDUL LATEEF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. President, I move—

' that clause 5 be omitted '."

* K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. President, I beg to second the amendment. As hon. Members are aware the section provides for the pay of Parliamentary Secretaries. The object of the mover in moving the amendment is that the Parliamentary Secretaries need not be paid. It is common knowledge that during the days of the last Congress Government, Parliamentary Secretaries had no work to do; they had no access to secret files and they used to carry some bundles of routine papers for disposal—a thing which the permanent services could well deal with. Things are no better in other Provinces. Recently we came across a case in the Punjab where a Parliamentary Secretary resigned for want of work and he considered it a waste of time and tax-payer's money for him to continue to draw his pay, without doing any work. I believe that that was the reason why Mr. Karanth resigned his Parliamentary Secretaryship during the last Congress Ministry. If circumstances have changed, I expect the Hon. the Premier to tell the House what the nature of the work of the Parliamentary Secretaries will be, both in the House and with reference to the Ministers."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" Mr. President, I fear I shall have to correct the facts stated by the Opposition. Even during the last Congress Ministry, it was not all Parliamentary Secretaries that were without much work. There were Parliamentary Secretaries who had been having good work and had been of very considerable help to the Ministers both within the House in conducting important measures and also outside the House. My friends seem to be anxious to know what kind of work the Parliamentary Secretaries would be performing. I assure hon. Members that Parliamentary Secretaries would not be persons without work and they will prove the contrary when the whole plan is unfolded to the House and when the execution of that work is undertaken."

1 p.m. * K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Were they answering questions in the Legislature? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" Yes, they were answering; everyone of them was answering interpellations; they were looking into the files, studying them; they knew what actual work was being done by Government. Therefore I am submitting to hon. Members of this House that when the Parliamentary Secretaries assume office, they will be functioning very well and relieving Ministers of their work to a great extent."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 5 was put to vote and carried.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" There are no more amendments. I will now put the remaining clauses to the vote of the House."

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Clauses 6 to 10 were put and carried.

Clause 1 and the preamble were put and carried.

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move—

' that the Bill be passed into Law ' . "

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. President, we have passed a Bill to-day, which according to the Hon. Premier."

AN HON. MEMBER :—" Sir, at this end we are not able to hear anything."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Aren't you able to hear what I am saying? "

AN HON. MEMBER :—" I am able to hear you, but not the hon. Member. May I request you to have the loud speaker arrangement installed in this House also."

* K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" The Hon. Premier says the salary now passed is sufficient salary. But according to the Opposition it is a fat salary. The self-denying rule of the Ministry will affect others adversely. So we said that the services also should be paid sufficient salary. If a man does not get sufficient wages for the work turned out by him the output of his work will be half-hearted. That is why, we the Muslim League Party agitate for an increase of salary of the services in the interests of the people and in the interest of Government itself. They ought to get a salary which befits their status.

" Apart from this consideration, Sir, let me say the Hon. Premier has to-day treated this House in a very shabby manner. A Bill passed by the other House has been thrown on this House this morning without notice. At least we must be given time to read and study the Bill. He knows well that we are not members of the other House. He cannot expect us to attend the other House. It is for him to explain to this House the implications of the Bill, as he did to the other House. At least he should have given 24 hours' time to this House for the Members to study the Bill. Without studying the Bill, how can we move amendments? When he speaks in this House we cannot study the Bill. I hope, Sir, you, Mr. President, hereafter when important matters are brought before this House you will insist upon Government giving us sufficient notice to study them. With these words, Sir, I congratulate the Premier (Laughter) for piloting this Bill safely in this House and securing a fat salary." (Laughter).

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The House will now adjourn for lunch and meet again at 2-15 p.m. to-day."

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(After Lunch—2-15 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT MOTION.

III.—FOOD AND CLOTH SITUATION.

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—“ I move, Sir—

‘ that the Food and Cloth situation in the Province be taken into consideration. ’

“ Before I read out my speech copies of which have been placed on the table of the House and also about the position of yarn dealing with the previous history, copies of which have also been placed in the hands of the hon. Members, I would like to point out that the subject is not a familiar one to all of us and to the public also. A crisis has arisen now not only with regard to food, but with regard to cloth as well. Ours is a country where there should not have been a cloth famine. But the misfortune had been there for a very long time that cloth sufficient for the people could not be produced here. Ever since hand-spinning and hand-weaving have ceased to exist on the scale on which they had been functioning, the troubles of this country with regard to cloth has started. An effort has been made to revive hand-spinning, and hand-weaving also during the last 25 years by the national organization, and particularly under the auspices of the All-India Spinners' Association. In spite of all the efforts, much progress could not be made because of the political struggle in which the Congress and also the people of the country have been engaged. So often were Congressmen and people among the public obliged to go into jails, and normal conditions had been disturbed. Therefore, it was that hand-spinning and hand-weaving could not be carried out as vigorously and extensively as could be expected. That was a great movement which could have helped the people, particularly when such a big world war had come upon the country and disturbed the conditions all over the world. If hand-spinning and hand-weaving had been in full progress, there could not have been famine of cloth anywhere in the country. But that could not be. This was not like the first world war. This war had destroyed many countries which had been having independence of their own. Until the war in the East started and Japan entered it, there was not so much trouble with regard to cloth, because Japan was supplying cloth, good, bad or indifferent, in large quantities, realising profits which other countries had not been able to do. With the entry of Japan, almost all the doors had been closed so far as India was concerned. India could not ever be self-sufficient on her own spinning and weaving, but she was managing it with the business she was carrying on with Burma, overseas countries, and Japan in the east. But once Japan entered the war, all these areas had been closed, our commerce stopped, and the trouble started. I am simply indicating the background which has been explained in detail in the memorandum. How have we come to this pass? To-day, why is there famine of cloth? Why have poor people, who have been spinning and weaving their own cloth, have

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become particularly helpless, and are sending in petitions complaining that the mill cloth that was sent never reached the villages and that they were not able to get even a piece of cloth. Cloth comes from somewhere, stops somewhere, goes somewhere, but does not reach the villages. That is how they have been writing. That is how you yourself might have been experiencing. When all these avenues were closed, what happened? I am taking you to the immediately preceding background. Cloth could not come from the overseas countries or from Japan or from anywhere in the east or from the western countries on account of war, and all the mills that had been supplying cloth had been closed. What is the position to-day to which we are reduced? We are reduced to this position of having to depend upon mill cloth and the handloom cloth made by the handloom weavers. You are aware that Bombay has got the largest number of mills. In other presidencies, the mills are very much fewer. When we were reduced to this position, the Government of India had to take stock of the situation and introduce a system, by which quotas were allotted to the Provinces—Bombay, Madras, and other provinces—but Bombay got double that of Madras because of the number of mills there and the volume of yarn and cloth turned out in those mills. So far as we people in India are concerned, we have to get cloth from Bombay mills, Madras mills, and other Indian mills wherever they have been functioning. That is one source. Secondly, the handlooms that have been functioning in spite of all troubles, have been producing cloth called the handloom cloth. The mill cloth made from the Indian mills and the handloom cloth, these are the two things upon which the whole country had to rely. The handloom cloth is said to be sufficient for the country, but its price has been so high and prohibitive that it could not be within the reach of the poor people. Even though the cloth is made within the country, because of the prohibitive cost of the handloom cloth, that is not taken by people as anxiously as they have been running after the mill cloth, because they have become used to this mill cloth for such a long period, it is cheaper above all; for a very small price, they could get the cloth. Therefore, in spite of the All-India Spinners Association labouring hard for 25 years, even the poor villagers run after the mill cloth because it is so very cheap, and with a little money, they could cover their shame. So, mill cloth has become indispensable for the people. And handloom cloth has become prohibitive. Under these circumstances, Government here has been struggling hard to regulate the business in such a manner that whatever mill cloth could be produced in the mills in Madras and whatever could be got from Bombay had been, under rules and regulations, quota system, and all these things, bought and sold to selected persons and those persons sent it down to their customers 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. These bales of cloth go up to a particular point, beyond which it could not reach the lower strata. That is why the country is suffering. That is the subject, I have placed before you fairly. In regard to mill cloth, I am pointing out to you, for the whole year for an adult, not more than 5 yards

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could be supplied. Like that, other varieties which are very much favoured by people, poor or rich, such as sarees, and dhoties have become very very rare and so costly that poor people cannot get even one saree for ten families. Therefore, I now request you to go into these pages to understand the position. The object of the Government in placing this matter before the Assembly and this House is to make you understand the seriousness of the situation and to make you all, when you go out of these Houses into the country with a fuller understanding, do all that you can in order to give relief to the people. It is a technical subject about which it is very difficult for the ordinary people to get the facts and figures to understand. Government have done their best on the lines laid down for their guidance. Why is the cloth that is in stock somewhere should not go down into the villages? Why cannot the poor people get it? These are the questions that have to be examined. It has not been possible for the Government, in spite of all their endeavour, to make the measure popular. An effort is being made now to popularise the new proposals for regulating the business. The new proposals are sufficiently popular. (Interruption: One saree for ten families?). If we tackle that subject properly just as we did in the case of food and if the subject had been considered by the Government in the past, as we have now done in the case of the new proposals, there would have been sufficient time for the goods to reach the remotest corner. With regard to food, I may tell you most officials believe that by appointing non-official committees and by taking away the work from wholesale dealers, much headway could be made. But non-official committees cannot function because it has been the misfortune of the people in this country that the contact between the officers and the people with regard to living did not exist in the regular way. I was addressing the Collectors of four districts, the other day in Bezwada. These points were raised by them. I told them, 'You District Officers are not expected to know these things. If you approach the subject properly, the whole thing shall be an accomplished fact within 12 or 24 months, if all of us apply ourselves.' One illustration, I have used this morning. My good friend, who has been working in this constructive programme for the past 25 years, who has taken up a small area in the Kurnool district and has been developing it, the moment we gave out the proposals, he was explaining to me how he had some little difficulty in making the people understand the implications. Then, when I said everything, he said, 'I can in a moment's time get 40 bags of paddy voluntarily surrendered there. It will not be appearing even in Court.' That is the work that can be done by men who are bent upon carrying on the programme that is given both in the supply of food and in the supply of cloth, even though you have not got sufficient quantity. If what is in the country is brought out, regulated and distributed, that would give relief for some good period until we are in a better position to command more things. That is the real object of the Government both in regard to food and cloth. Now, I would request you to look into the yarn position.

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"The position as regards mill-spun cotton yarn is as follows :—

"Madras is a surplus Province for yarn. If we had been allowed to retain all that we produced there would have been no complaints of yarn scarcity in this Province. In April 1945, the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, introduced a scheme known as the All-India Yarn Distribution Scheme, under which this Province was allowed to retain 21,305 bales."

2-45
p.m.

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—"Out of how many bales?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—"For this Province, 26 per cent of the All-India production. This allocation has been made on the following basis. According to the Fact Finding Committee Madras consumed in the year immediately preceding the outbreak of the war 26.05 per cent of the yarn available for handlooms in India and this proportion has been adopted in fixing the yarn quota for this Province. This proportion is not likely to be raised.

"Since August 1944, the Provincial Textile Commissioner has been rationing the available supplies of yarn equitably among the handlooms all over the Province. Yarn quotas have been fixed for each district, and what is sent to each district is distributed to the weavers through a chain of distributors consisting of quota-holders, sub-wholesalers and retailers who between them charge a profit margin ranging from 10 to 15 per cent over the ex-mill price. Yarn sent to each centre is distributed through the dealers in proportion to their turnover in the past. The supply of yarn to each handloom is made against ration cards which specify the quantities and counts of yarn which the loom is entitled to receive every month and the retail dealer who should make the supply.

"Non-official Committees have been constituted at all yarn distribution centres and district committees are being set up in each district. These committees assist the officers of the Textile Control Department in enforcing the yarn control measures. Rationing has been found practicable in the case of yarn because the number of counts is limited and the requirements of each loom in terms of counts and quantities can be determined precisely.

"It is true that there are complaints of inadequate supplies of yarn from all over the Province but the utmost that we can do is to distribute equitably what we receive under the All-India Yarn Distribution Scheme. Owing to the increase in the number of looms and the rigid enforcement of the All-India Yarn Scheme we had reluctantly to cut down the ration for each loom with the result that the present ration is just sufficient to give employment to each weaver for about ten days in a month. The recent census has shown that there are now 496,000 active looms—and hardly any idle looms—in the Province, as against 296,101 active looms and 46,350 idle looms estimated by the Fact Finding Committee. The Fact Finding Committee's figures were undoubtedly an underestimate but there is reason to believe that nearly 75,000 new looms

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have come into existence during the war period taking advantage of the scarcity of mill-made cloth and the absence of price control over handloom cloth. The position has been further aggravated by the mills consuming a larger quantity of yarn as a result of the introduction of the Utility Cloth Scheme, which has had the effect of reducing the quantity of yarn available for handlooms in India by about 10,000 bales per mensem. As the fabrics produced under the Utility Cloth Scheme are of loose texture and are not popular with the public the Madras Government have suggested to the Government of India that the scheme may be abandoned in order that more yarn may be made available to the handloom industry.

" Cotton Cloth.—Under the All-India Cloth Distribution Scheme, India has been divided into surplus and deficit zones according as the cloth produced in the zone is more or less than the cloth requirements of the population of each zone. The Madras Province is included in the South Deficit Zone comprising the Madras Province, Coorg and the States of Mysore, Travancore, Cochin, Pudukottah, Banganapalle and Sandur. The *per capita* allotment until 31st October 1945 for the South Deficit Zone was 10 yards per annum. It was raised to 12 yards with effect from 1st November 1945. We have since been told that the Central Government has decided to reduce the *per capita* allotment for all the areas by 10 per cent with effect from 1st June 1946 in view of the fall in production since December last. The imposition of the 10 per cent cut on the *per capita* allotment has reduced our total monthly allocation, which was meagre enough, from 35,501 bales to 31,951 bales. Our quota now consists of not more than 12,428 bales of mill cloth and 19,523 bales of handloom cloth. As only 4,121 bales are produced in the mills in the South Deficit Zone, we have to depend on the Bombay Province for the balance of 8,307 bales. Partly because of the ineffective distribution arrangements in Bombay and Ahmedabad, the two main buying centres in the Bombay Province and partly because of the complicated calculations which take into account yarn deliveries and handloom exports before the actual quota due to us is arrived at, the arrivals are irregular and even the monthly allocations are uncertain.

" As in the case of yarn, mill cloth is distributed through a chain of dealers consisting of quota holders, sub-wholesalers and retailers who between them appropriate a profit margin of 20 per cent over the ex-mill price.

" Out of 10.8 yards per annum per head of population now allotted to this Province, a little less than 4.2 yards is mill-made cloth while the balance of 6.6 yards will have to be handloom cloth. The population of this Province is now a little over 53 millions out of which about 16 millions are children, i.e., persons below 12 years of age. The quantity of mill cloth available does not permit the allotment of more than 5 yards to an adult and 2 yards to a child per annum. The production of sarees in South Indian mills is negligible while the production of dhoties is about

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14,000 per mensem. We are thus for all practical purposes entirely dependent on the mills in the Bombay Province for our supplies of mill sarees, dhoties, voiles and printed chintz, to name only the more popular varieties. As for mulls the small mill at Mettur gives us about 11 million yards of mull per annum, and for further quantities of mull we have to depend on supplies from Bombay. It may be practicable to arrange for the supply of mill-made cloth at the rate of 5 yards per adult and 2 yards per child if it were only a question of supplying some mill cloth or other. There will probably be no great difficulty in supplying reasonable quantities in terms of shirtings and coatings, but the scramble is for the coveted varieties already mentioned. The production of mill sarees, dhoties and other popular varieties is limited and our share of these varieties is not sufficient to enable us to guarantee the supply of even one mill saree per annum for every ten families and even one dhotie per family per annum.

“ With an efficient handloom industry such as we have here there can be no cloth famine in the literal sense of the term so far as this Province is concerned. We have adequate quantities of handloom cloth which can be supplied to our consumers month after month in the varieties to which they have been accustomed. As far as the masses of our people are concerned they have been accustomed to handloom cloth, but they have been joining in the scramble for the very limited quantities of mill-made cloth because the prices of handloom cloth are more than double the prices of corresponding varieties of mill-made cloth.

“ There have been widespread complaints that mill cloth is not reaching the poorer classes of consumers. The Government have accordingly under their active consideration a scheme for the equitable distribution of the available supplies of mill cloth to all areas and sections of the consuming public. For the smooth and effective enforcement of the scheme the Government propose to utilize the services of the Village, Taluk and District Committees which are being set up in connexion with the administration of food control measures. The details of the scheme are being worked out and the Government hope to publish a Press Note on the subject shortly.

“ As, however, the bulk of the cloth allotment to this Province consists of handloom cloth, no substantial relief is possible in the absence of control of the prices of such cloth. The Government propose to introduce a simple scheme for the purpose, the details of which will be announced shortly. Under this scheme, there will be no interference with the wages paid to the actual weavers and the real object of the control is to check profiteering by middlemen. In pursuance of their policy of eliminating unnecessary middlemen, the Government have decided that there should be no sales of handloom cloth from one wholesaler to another and that every wholesaler should sell direct to a retailer. Producers of handloom cloth will be allowed a handsome margin of 15 per cent over the actual cost of production, while the margins for the

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Net imports.

						(IN TONS)
Rice	...	...	...	...	...	451,000
Millets	...	...	...	...	...	9,600
Pulses	...	...	...	...	...	250,000
Wheat and wheat products	...	...	...	...	...	66,000
Total						776,600

Total production and net imports.

Rice	...	...	...	...	...	5,351,000
Millets	...	...	...	...	...	2,809,600
Pulses	...	...	...	...	...	500,000
Wheat and wheat products	...	...	...	...	...	66,000
Total						8,726,600

Thus the normal consumption of foodgrains including pulses in a pre-war year was 8.7 million tons.

" The first two years of the war did not materially affect the food position of the Province. During this period the prices of foodgrains and especially cereals rose steadily but they did not rise to high levels and people could still buy whatever quantity they required without difficulty. It was the entry of Japan into the war in December 1941 and the subsequent interruption of communications with Burma, Indo-China and Siam that led to a serious situation in the Province. All imports dwindled after the entry of Japan into war and stopped completely on the fall of Burma and other Eastern countries. To add to the difficulties other administrations which, like Madras, used to import their rice requirements from these Eastern countries began not only to stop their exports of rice, millets and pulses to this Province, but also supplement their resources by purchase within this Province. Thus, early in 1942 the demand for rice from the Province, to Ceylon, Travancore, Cochin, Mysore, Hyderabad and Bombay which usually previously largely depended on imports from Burma and other Eastern countries increased. Owing to this increased demand on its resources, the Province became for the first time in 1941-42, a net exporter of rice to the extent of 155,000 tons while previously it had been a net importer to an extent of over 400,000 tons as stated already. This was rendered possible on account of the unusually good harvest in 1940-41 when the production of rice rose to 5.2 million tons. However, in 1942-43, imports from the Eastern countries ceased altogether. There was a heavy draw-off by the neighbouring States and Provinces—the draw-off amounting to a net export of 282,000 tons that year.

" In 1943, the Government of India attempted a distribution of the surplus foodgrains available in surplus States and Provinces to deficit areas and drew up the original basic plan. This plan did not

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however work owing to the varying methods adopted by the different administrations in assessing their surpluses and deficits. The Government of India therefore considered it essential to enunciate a uniform formula for application throughout India and for this purpose and also to advise on food policy generally they constituted the Foodgrains Policy Committee presided over by Sir Theodore Gregory. This committee recommended the adoption of what is known as the five-year formula for assessing the provincial requirements of cereals. Under this formula the requirements of cereals are taken to be the average production *plus* net imports (imports *minus* exports) during the period of five years ending 1941-42.

"The production of rice and millets and the requirements of these cereals under the Gregory formula during the three years ending 1944-45 were—

		Production.	Requirements.	Deficit.
		TONS.	TONS.	TONS.
1942-43	{ Rice	4,575,000	4,962,000	(—) 387,000
	{ Millets	2,416,000	2,890,000	(—) 474,000
	{ Rice	4,916,000	4,962,000	(—) 46,000
1943-44	{ Millets	2,607,000	2,890,000	(—) 283,000
	{ Rice	4,904,000	4,962,000	(—) 58,000
1944-45	{ Millets	2,724,000	2,890,000	(—) 166,000

Against the deficits for the respective years the Province received under the arrangements made by the Government of India—

		TONS.
	{ Rice	Nil
1942-43	{ Millets	34,895 (includes 22,528 tons obtained directly by this Province from surplus Provinces).
	{ Rice	Nil
1943-44	{ Millets	44,784
	{ Rice	48,741
1944-45	{ Millets	23,324

In 1942-43 and 1943-44 some allotment of rice was made to this Province by the Government of India but that was in exchange for what this Province was required to supply to Defence Services, Travancore and Cochin. It was only in 1944-45 that a net allotment was made to meet the Province's requirements.

"Apart from rice and millets, the Government of India have also been allotting quotas of wheat and wheat products from surplus Provinces and from abroad. The receipts against these allotments were—

	TONS.
1942-43—Wheat	13,584
Wheat products	15,891
1943-44—Wheat	20,210
Wheat products	20,256
1944-45—Wheat	74,026
Wheat products	28,870

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Since 1944-45 the Government of India have been allotting larger quotas of wheat and wheat products to make up for the shortage in other foodgrains but, even so, the actual arrivals of all cereals together have fallen short of our deficits by

						TONS.
1942-43	...	...	...	...	...	796,630
1943-44	...	...	...	...	...	243,750
1944-45	...	...	...	...	...	49,039

As stated earlier, we were normally importing about one-half of our requirements of pulses, i.e., about 250,000 tons from surplus Provinces and States. Free trade in pulses was stopped with effect from 1943 and the Government of India allotted quotas to us from surplus areas since that year. The arrivals of all pulses were—

						TONS.
1943-44	...	...	...	...	...	91,342
1944-45	...	...	...	...	...	57,302

The allotments are given by the Government of India for what are called the Kharif and Rabi years, the former running from 1st November to 31st October and the latter from 1st May to 30th April, with reference to crop production seasons in North India. Rice, millets and certain varieties of pulses fall under the Kharif Plan and wheat and wheat products and bengalgram under the Rabi Plan.

“ The gravity of the food situation was realized by the Madras Government even as early as 1942 and steps were taken to stop indiscriminate exports, to conserve supplies and to make an equitable distribution of them within the Province. The first step taken in these directions was the issue of a notification prohibiting from 1st July 1942 the export of rice outside the Province without permits. The exports to neighbouring Provinces and States as well as to the Defence Services were regulated by a system of quotas. These quotas were originally purchased by private merchants who were allowed to export under permits up to the limit of the quotas. There was, however, no co-ordination in the purchasing activities of the other Provinces and States with the result that purchases were made by different agents who bid against one another and who bought not only in districts where there was surplus but also in districts where there was little or none. The Government therefore set up on 1st September 1942 the official purchasing agency of Grain Purchase Officer (Deputy Collector in the Provincial Civil Service) with the necessary subordinate staff to buy for export outside the Province subject to ceiling prices fixed by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies. In 1942-43 an unprecedentedly severe famine raged in the three Ceded districts of Bellary, Anantapur and Kurnool. Unlike in previous famines, when only cash wages used to be paid to labourers, grains had to be supplied to them owing to the scarcity of grains in the markets. Thus the cessation of imports from Burma and other Eastern countries, the heavy demands by the neighbouring Provinces and States and the unprecedentedly severe famine in the three districts in 1942-43

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placed a very severe strain on the resources of the Province, and drained off whatever carry-over the producers had with them. From 1943-44 onwards, the Province had to live entirely on its current production supplemented by the limited imports that were received.

“ Other steps taken to meet the situation were—

(1) the promulgation of an order by the Government of Madras prohibiting exports of foodgrains outside the Province except under permits issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies;

(2) the promulgation of an order by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies extending the prohibition against the export of rice from one district to another within the Province to millets and certain varieties of pulses also;

(3) the licensing of merchants under the Foodgrains Control Order;

(4) the institution of a campaign for growing more food;

(5) an intensive procurement drive; and

(6) rationing.

Under the first two items, export of essential foodgrains from one district to another or from this Province to places outside is controlled by a system of permits. Ordinarily no export outside the Province is allowed and export from one district to another is regulated according to the means of each district as carefully ascertained with reference to statistics of production and requirements.

“ *Item 3.*—The Foodgrains Control Order of the Government of India was brought into force in this Province in 1942. Under this order trade in foodgrains is licensed and merchants who are licensed under the order have to render accounts of stocks, disposals, etc. Thus the wholesale trade is entirely under the control and supervision of the Government.

“ *Item 4.*—To close the gap between home supplies and consumption needs, the Government addressed themselves to the task of improving the output of foodstuffs in deficit in the Province. The drive to increase food production proceeded on the following lines :—

(a) bringing new areas under food crops, increasing double-crop cultivation and cultivation during the off-season;

(b) diverting areas under non-food crops to food crops;

(c) execution of irrigation projects to bring a larger area under irrigation;

(d) intensive cultivation by applying more manure and by the use of improved varieties of seeds;

(e) grant of loans on a liberal scale to cultivators for purchases of manure and seeds and to finance agricultural operations generally.

“ Up to 30th September 1945, an additional extent of 180,233 acres was brought under the plough. The net area sown in 1944-45, viz., 31.5 million acres, was, however, less than the pre-war triennial average of 31.7 million acres. The area under foodgrains however increased from the pre-war triennial average of 22.8

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million acres to 28 million acres in 1944-45. Thus, increased production of foodgrains should have resulted from the Grow More Food Campaign by the diversion of part of the area under non-food crops to food crops and by an increase in the area under second-crop cultivation. But the unfavourable seasonal conditions have prevented these efforts from bearing fruit. The season in 1945-46 has been most unfavourable and the area under cultivation therefore necessarily decreased. It is thus not possible to assess the results of the campaign with reference to 1945-46.

Item 5—Intensive procurement.—Seven Grain Purchase Officers were first appointed for procurement of all surpluses of rice from the producing areas for export to deficit areas. In Malabar on the West Coast, which is heavily deficit in all foodgrains and which used to depend primarily on imports of rice from Burma in pre-war years, the entire surplus is procured under an order which requires all holders to sell their surplus cereals only to the agents appointed by the Collector. The system of procurement of surpluses was extended to 6 more districts during 1945 and 4 more districts in 1946 in view of the famine and drought conditions, and in February this year, in view of the worsening of the seasonal conditions, the system of intensive procurement was extended to all the districts in the Province including the surplus districts. District Supply Officers, Taluk Supply Officers and Firka Supply Officers have now been appointed in all districts whose duty it is to procure all available surplus of cereals from the ryots and distribute them to the statutorily and informally rationed areas according to their requirements.

Item 6—Rationing.—Statutory rationing was introduced in Madras City in the first week of November 1943 and was extended to the other urban areas of the Province by the end of June 1944. In the latter half of 1944, conditions in Malabar district deteriorated so badly that it was found necessary to introduce districtwide rationing of non-producers and small producers. Statutory rationing is now in force in 83 urban areas. Rice, millets and wheat and wheat products are at present rationed articles. The scale of ration was 1 lb. per adult per day rounded to the nearest local measure. From 17th February 1946, in view of the anticipated heavy deficits in all foodgrains, it was reduced to 12 oz. per adult per day. In the case of heavy manual labourers an additional ration of 4 oz. per day is allowed.

“ In addition to statutory rationing, it was considered desirable to introduce a more drastic system of rationing in 6 heavily deficit districts. This is called rural rationing. It is more elastic than statutory rationing in that it dispenses with a number of forms, does not provide for penalties for minor irregularities and does not prescribe elaborate formalities. This system of rural rationing was subsequently extended to all the deficit districts and has been or is being introduced in surplus districts also. Thus at present the entire non-producer and insufficient producer population of the Province which is estimated to be 21.4 millions in terms of adults will get their rations on ration cards. The producers also are in a

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sense rationed because their requirements for consumption are calculated at 1 lb. per adult per day in estimating the surplus to be procured from them. Thus the scale of consumption by the entire population is under control.

“ We may now proceed to an examination of the situation during the current Kharif year. In September 1945 when an estimate was made for the purpose of the Kharif Plan Conference, it was estimated that the Province was deficit in rice by 96,000 tons and in millets by 50,000 tons. The season however turned out to be very disappointing. The south-west monsoon was a partial failure while the north-east monsoon was very deficient in many of the districts. A devastating cyclone caused extensive damage to crops in the Circars and the drought spread to almost all interior districts. Consequently the estimate of deficit had to be revised periodically. The latest estimate shows that the production of rice this year is 3,827,000 tons and of millets 1,942,000 tons. The estimated production is short of the normal by 1,039,800 tons in the case of rice and by 640,000 tons in the case of millets making a total deficit of 1,679,800 tons. Compared with the requirements according to the five-year formula, the deficit of rice and millets works out to 1,135,000 and 948,000 tons respectively, i.e., a total of 2,083,000 tons. The five-year formula however gave a *per capita* rate of consumption of 1.1 lb. In view of the difficult conditions of this year, the requirements of this Province have been revised by allowing only 1 lb. per adult per day to producers and 12 oz. to the rationed population in statutorily rationed areas from 1st March 1946 and 12 oz. to the card-holders in rural rationed areas from 1st May 1946. On this basis our requirements to maintain the existing ration of 12 oz. up to the end of October amount to 1,272,000 tons.

“ Members will want to know what resources we have to meet this huge requirement of 1,272,000 tons up to the end of October. I, therefore, now turn to a comparison of our resources with our requirements. For the present, I shall deal only with the period up to October after which month considerable overseas supplies are expected to be available from the present year's harvest in the northern hemisphere.

“ To meet this demand of 1,272,000 tons up to the end of October we have stocks on hand which amounted to 521,000 tons on 2nd May. This includes 484,500 tons of rice, 25,000 tons of millets and 12,000 tons of wheat and wheat products. We have been promised imports of 116,000 tons of rice, 500 tons of millets and 30,000 tons of wheat and wheat products, making a total of 146,500 tons. We expect to procure 336,000 tons of cereals from the surpluses available with ryots, of which 300,000 tons is in rice and 36,000 tons in millets. This includes procurement of part of the short-term crop to be harvested in September and October. The prospects of this crop are doubtful owing to the very low level of the Mettur Reservoir, and it is quite possible that our estimates of procurement may not be realized in full. Thus our stocks, imports and anticipated procurement on the most favourable estimate come to 1,004,000 tons against our requirements

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of 1,272,000 tons leaving a deficit of 268,000 tons to maintain the existing ration to the end of October. There are, however, several uncertain factors in the assessment of this stock position. It is doubtful if all the promised imports will arrive in full or arrive in time and it must be remembered that the stocks in the districts are of varying magnitude, and due to the difficulties of transport and the long distances over which foodgrains have to be moved, the stocks will get exhausted sooner in some districts than in others.

" It will be clear from the facts stated above that however efficient we may make our own organization, and even with the marshalling of all our resources, a time will come and it may be any time before October, when we shall be entirely dependent on supplies from outside the Province or from overseas. We need all the help possible from the Government of India Food Organization if we are to prevent widespread starvation in the Province, and I should be failing in my duty if I did not also warn the Hon. Members that the period of acute scarcity will last at least up to the end of December 1946, when our main harvests will begin to become available and even that date is based on the assumption that the season this year will be favourable for agricultural operations in both monsoons. We shall, therefore, require substantial help up to the end of December at least and that help must come in good time to be distributed over the great areas of this Province before stocks run out.

" The essential things to be done are—

(i) *Prevent waste*.—For this purpose the evasion of Rationing Rules has to be put down with a strong hand and stringent measures have to be taken to see that no food is wasted in unnecessary entertainments, etc.

(ii) *Intensive procurement*.—This is the main thing upon which we are called upon to engage ourselves. All the districts of the Province have now got Government Procurement Organizations which procure all the available surpluses with the ryots. The difficulty experienced by the staff is want of reliable information about the surplus available with the ryots and the reluctance of some of them to dispose of their surpluses. Public opinion has to be created to make all holders of stocks surplus to requirements sell such surpluses to the Government agents and not to hoard them for their own use or in anticipation of getting higher prices. It is vital for existence that the target of procurement of 336,000 tons is reached and exceeded as far as possible.

You will remember, Sir, the complaint from holders of stock has been that they are being forced to part with everything they have. We have been anxious to formulate steps to prevent the oppression of people by those who are engaged in the business of procurement. I will explain to you the proposals we have decided upon. Our proposals are to shift the whole question of procurement on to the hands of the dealers. Then only they would be ready to do the work earnestly taking the responsibility on their shoulders. If every one of the Members of the Council

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and of the Assembly goes out into the country and do the needful to carry out these procurement proposals and make the people understand the importance of the whole thing by way of preventing waste and rooting out corruption and blackmarkets, the scheme will work well and corruption and blackmarkets will disappear without our taking steps against those people, who are responsible for those evils. If we go to the root of the matter and move about in our own areas, the existing evils will disappear promptly.

(iii) *Reduction in scale of rice ration.*—As rice is in short supply and a large quantity of wheat and wheat flour has been promised by the Government of India it is necessary to conserve rice for the poorer classes who cannot buy supplementary foods like vegetables, fruits, biscuits. The rice ration therefore will in future be 10 oz. per adult per day. People will have the option to take the remaining part of the ration, viz., 2 oz. as wheat, wheat products or millets. It will of course be open to them to take the rice content of the ration in the shape of other rationed foodgrains like wheat, etc. Bread and wheat products have been rationed in some towns and their rationing is being extended to all urban areas and semi-urban areas.

Let me point out to Hon. Members that we are living on 12 oz. of ration. We were expected to reduce it to a much lower figure than 10 oz. of rice, but we were fortunate enough to tide over the period by a few weeks. We will postpone it for some more time.

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We will have to make our own people understand how to adjust themselves to this position and take wheat. Villagers have been accustomed to take rice but they do not eat the whole rice which contains high quality vitamins and which is much better than wheat in every respect. At least the masses in the village take the kanji also with the rice, but we, civilised men, throw away the kanji and we have a mania for white rice and whiter rice, polished twice over. It is a useless food that we eat. On my way to Bezwada, all along my route, I told people that we should give up our old idea that we should not eat wheat. Every one of us here should educate the people in the use of wheat and whole rice. Once they understand the matter they will practice it and teach others also in a short time. The masses are not the old uneducated ones. They are very sensible people. They understand everything that is going on around them, and there are many who understand foreign affairs much better than we do.

(iv) *Increase food production.*—The Government have already ordered the grant of a bonus of Rs. 15 per acre for the cultivation of short-term crops. A bonus is also given for sinking irrigation wells. Manures and seed are also distributed at concessional rates. Similar measures will be considered to stimulate production of foodgrains.

(v) *Popularisation of subsidiary foods.*—The consumption of sweet potatoes, groundnut, etc., should be encouraged: it will be made available to the fullest extent possible.

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My Hon. Friend opposite referred to groundnut almost in a spirit of contempt. If you analyse the ingredients in the food you are eating and the ingredients that are found in the groundnut you will have a different opinion about groundnut. The whole country does not live on meat and flesh but on the products of the earth.

(vi) The prices of foodgrains (rice and millets) have to be kept at a reasonable level, so that the interests of both producers and consumers may be safeguarded. Frequent changes of prices are undesirable, unfair to the producers who have already parted with their stocks and most of the poor producers have done so already. If any increase is found necessary it will be given effect to during the next crop season.

The question of prices of foodgrains produced during the next crop will be considered separately; we shall review the position giving full consideration to the interests of the producer.

(vii) In order to popularise unfamiliar foods such as wheat, and wheat products they will have to be sold cheaper than rice so that even the poor can purchase them without difficulty. It is therefore proposed to sell these foodstuffs at half a Madras measure cheaper than rice and maize at the same rate as cholam. Rice imported from outside the Province is also being sold in deficit districts at the same rate at which rice imported from the surplus districts in the Province is sold in those districts. It is hoped that the Government of India will agree to bear a part, if not the whole, of the loss involved.

"Draft proposals for associating the public with the food administration."—I had no time to put forward these proposals in the other House yesterday. I propose to put them forward in this House today and deal with them in the other House to-morrow. A study of these proposals will show what arrangements the Government are making to make the whole thing popular. I presume that copies of the draft proposals have been circulated to the Members. Proposals on similar lines with slight modifications have been made in regard to cloth distribution also."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"I have not received a copy of the statement."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I am told that copies were circulated this morning."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Some are having and some are not having copies."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The number of copies is limited and copies were placed on the table of each Member."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Copies ought not to have been left on the table. They ought to have been distributed to the Members. I am very sorry. I shall now read the statement.

"The association of the public with the food administration will be effected by the formation of village, taluk, and district committees on the following lines:—

"Village committees."—The village committee may consist of 5 to 8 members. A committee shall ordinarily be formed for a

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village which constitutes a revenue unit. Where a village is small, two or three villages may be grouped, and a committee formed for the group. Where a municipality includes a number of villages a committee may be formed for the municipality. The Tahsildar will convene a meeting of all the villagers and in consultation with them will select really representative and influential men of the village without regard to their political affiliations and constitute the committee. The committee can elect its own chairman. The Revenue Divisional Officer shall satisfy himself that the committee formed is really representative.

" Taluk committees.—The village committees of each firka will be assembled at a convenient centre by the Tahsildar and asked to elect two representatives for the taluk committee. The taluk committee will thus consist of about ten representatives elected on a firka basis. The Tahsildar will be the convener of this committee and the Divisional Officer the President. The members of the Madras Legislatures representing that area will be ex-officio members of this committee.

" District committees.—This will consist of the Collector of the district who will be its President, the District Supply Officer who will be its Secretary, the District Rationing Officer, the District Agricultural Officer, and the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who will be its ex-officio members; the Members of the Legislatures, both Provincial and Central, and one representative of each taluk committee elected from amongst its non-official members. The committee shall have the power to co-opt not more than three members, one of whom shall be a representative of the District Wholesale Co-operative Stores where such stores is entrusted with procurement.

" Powers and duties of the committees.—The village committees will scrutinise the demand lists prepared by the Revenue staff in regard to procurement. The Revenue staff prepares registers showing the extent cultivated by each ryot, his outturn, his requirements, and arrive at his surplus and intimate it to the ryot concerned. These lists will be placed before the village committees and the objections, if any, by the ryots will be heard by them and the lists finally passed. Pending the completion and scrutiny of these lists all grain voluntarily offered may be purchased.

" Hon. Members might have noted what complaints there were with regard to procurement and how the procedure now prescribed tries to eliminate them. The procurement will now be free without any oppression or coercion. The ryots can keep enough for themselves and part with the rest so that others who are starving may be kept going.

" In the process of procurement, though the present rules make adequate provision for the deduction, in ascertaining the surplus, of the actual needs of the cultivator for the subsistence of himself and his family, and secondly for the expenses of cultivation, it is found in practice that this is not being done properly and the cultivator is being forced to give more than he ought to.

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This should be stopped and adequate provision should be made for his subsistence and also for the needs of cultivation. The Collector, in consultation with the several taluk committees, will fix the scale of allowances for each taluk. In estimating the cultivator's requirements, provision should be made for payment of wages in kind and for seasonal labour also. Though this is now allowed under the rules, in practice it is found that allowance is made only for permanent servants and not for seasonal labour. The enumeration for the distribution of ration cards should also be verified and approved by the committee to prevent numerous false and incorrect claims regarding the strength of the families. The quantity required for the consumption of the non-producers and insufficient producers in the village will be determined according to the scales of rations that are fixed from time to time. This quantity will ordinarily be procured by the village committee which by itself or with other villagers will form itself into a co-operative society. If the committee finds itself unable to do so, the Tahsildar will select one or two agents for the purpose in consultation with the committee. The business of the agents will be to purchase the stock from the producers at the village prices fixed by the Collector and sell it to the ration card-holders, adding only the prescribed scale of overheads for retailers. If the agents purchase, they will find the storage for the grain. If the committee purchases, the Tahsildar will help to secure proper storage until it is able to build one for itself. As far as possible, the sales should be in the shape of paddy so that people may resort to hand-pounding. Where milling is necessary, the agents or the committees will arrange for it. The committees will preferably arrange for hand-pounding in the village itself and sell rice to the card-holders.

"Taluk committees.—As the village lists are settled, they will be sent to the taluk committee which will scrutinize them to see whether the assessment has been fair. The taluk committee will have the power to enhance the surplus if it finds that the surplus settled by the village committee is low; in which case the village committee shall distribute the enhanced levy among the villagers in a fair manner. If any producer is not satisfied with the decision of the village committees he may appeal to the taluk committee which would, in that event, give an opportunity to him to prove his case and revise his demand, if necessary. The decision of the taluk committee in regard to individual assessments shall be final. The taluk committee may appoint a sub-committee to hear and dispose of these appeals; the Tahsildar will preside over this sub-committee.

"District committees.—The taluk committees will send up the summaries of the village lists to the district committees from time to time. The district committee will scrutinize the assessments settled for the taluks and finalize the position for the district. If it is found that the estimates of local production, local consumption or surplus as determined by the taluk committees are low, the Collector shall have over-riding power, in consultation with the district committee, to revise the lists prepared by the taluk committee in the interests of the district as a whole as well as the rest of the province.

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Procurement for export.—Regarding the procurement of the balance of the surplus which is to be sent outside the village, each firka will be divided into 5 or 6 groups and there will be a depot for each group. A collecting agent will be appointed for each group for buying the surplus from the villagers and storing it in the group depot. If there is a co-operative society, it should be asked to open branches for this purpose. Where it is unwilling or where there is no such society, the Divisional Officer will select suitable agents in consultation with the taluk committees. The collecting agents in charge of firka depots will send weekly returns of stocks to the Tahsildar who will transfer stocks from surplus to deficit areas as required. It should be the aim of the Revenue staff to make use of the co-operative societies in the procurement work at all stages through the district co-operative stores. The Registrar will be asked to organize societies where they do not exist.

“ It is the aim of the Government to revive hand-pounding of rice as far as possible and put an end to milling at the earliest possible moment. For this purpose, the committees will, as proposed above, take all possible steps to see that rice is hand-pounded. Paddy may be sold to consumers so that they may hand-pound it themselves. Or the committee may arrange to hand-pound the paddy and see that very little of it is given to the mills. Rice instead of paddy may be accepted from producers for quantities required for consumption in the villages. In fixing the relative prices of paddy and rice every inducement will be given to the producer to give in the form of rice so that he may hand-pound the paddy before sale.

“ *Prices.*—The Government will fix prices for each district for the next crop in consultation with all interests. The Collectors will work out the village prices and prescribe the scale of overheads for sale in the villages and depots in consultation with the district committee.

“ *General.*—After these village committees are constituted it is essential that they should equip themselves with proper godown accommodation as soon as possible. Steps will be taken to that end soon. As soon as these committees are formed, the distribution of all controlled commodities such as sugar, kerosene, cloth, yarn, etc., will be entrusted to them. Sugar and kerosene have now become a scarcity everywhere. I have also heard ever so many people in the villages complaining that iron could not be got by the villagers for making their own implements by the village blacksmith. So in addition to agricultural implements, the villagers want also protection in the supply of iron. The village quota of agricultural implements, cart tyres, tools, etc., will also be distributed by the village committees. The quota for the taluks and villages will be settled by the Collector and the Divisional Officers in consultation with the respective committees, i.e., the district quota will be settled by the Government, the Collector will distribute the district quota between the taluks in consultation with the district committee, and the Divisional Officer will distribute the taluk quotas to the villages in each taluk in consultation with

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the taluk committees, and the village committees will arrange for the distribution in their villages equitably. The Chairman of the Village Committee will convene a meeting of the committee and draw up a list for distribution and get it passed by the Firka Supply Officer before acting on it. Complaints in regard to distribution of food or other commodities by the village committees will be heard and disposed of by the taluk committees.

“ The existing Food Councils will be dissolved.

“ Travelling allowance according to scales to be prescribed will be allowed to non-official members of the taluk and district committees for attending the meetings of the committees.

“ There has been a sense of grievance that procurement in the past has been harsh and that prosecutions have been launched indiscriminately. The Collectors will be requested to scrutinize all pending prosecutions and withdraw all cases except those which involve violence or deliberate evasion on a large scale.

“ From this it will be seen that the Government have taken steps to tell the masses of people what they should do to benefit themselves but also the officers serving under the Government as to how they should readjust their position and work in such a manner as to make themselves the best teachers and helpers of the masses in the country. I shall stop with this statement of mine.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I find there is a genuine feeling that the House should have some time before discussing the proposals of the hon. the Premier. So in consultation with him and other Party Leaders, I have decided to continue the discussion to-morrow. If however, any hon. Member is willing to offer his remarks to-day, I think, he may do so.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—“ The other House will be meeting to-morrow. The hour at which this House will meet may be fixed.”

* DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ Mr. President, hon. Members may perhaps be surprised to see a medical man like me standing up in this House and taking the first place to talk about a question like food. Sir, I assure you there is nothing very surprising in it. The surprise is much greater when we see that after 200 years of civilized administration, for the first time in the history of this country, after two devastating wars and after a terrible famine in which millions of lives were lost that the Government have after all come to realize that there is something like a food problem and there are people who require food and that it is the duty of the Government also to see that these people get the food they need. For, till now, until very recently the revenue question was the one all-absorbing interest of the Government. They thought that lands, agriculturists and food were for the revenues of State and if famine came, it came by God's blessing, God's anger and if it left after taking a few millions' toll of life, it was also God's dispensation. The Government satisfied their souls by providing a famine fund which was called into requisition whenever there was famine and it was freely drawn upon. But there has come a time in our

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country when the famine fund could not procure food which we require. We have come to a state of affairs where money will not buy the food we want. We have gone to America begging for food, we have gone to England begging for food, countries where perhaps little food is grown. We have in our country vast tracts of land which can, if at all proper measures were taken, be brought under cultivation by willing hands, for let me say that our Indian peasantry are the best cultivators though they are nearly half or three-fourths starved and starvation faces them from morning till evening all through the year. They have been toiling for ages to produce what little they could on their land which was getting poorer day by day. It is therefore nothing very surprising to see a medical man talking about food when all the surprise that has come to us is from the other side, from the side of the Government.

“ Let me congratulate myself and the Government of Madras to-day on the steps, the very earliest steps, which they have taken with regard to this famine question, neglecting other important questions which are perhaps of less moment when compared to the question of food. I also congratulate the Government on the statement they have produced. It is not my purpose to talk about long range programmes or about the very many ways of procuring food. But I know this, Sir, that food can be produced and this deficit of 336,000 tons that is facing us before the end of October this year can be made up. You might ask me how? I will just relate to you one instance in my experience. The military wanted onions very badly during the war and they wanted not our poor little country onions but the full-blooded big Bellary onions and they wanted it so desperately for the Army. We were able to give them all the onions they wanted within a period of six months. When the military wanted a certain thing, there was no end to their resources; how they got their money or who gave it to them, it is not my purpose to recount here to-day. The ukase came: We want so many million tons of onions within six months and the onions required came forth and in six months. The Agricultural department was asked whether they could give the required quantity of onions. That department had not the courage to say ‘no’ to the Military requisition. They agreed to give them the onions and stipulated their conditions, to which the Military agreed. I was one of those who gave onions to the Military. I gave a considerable acreage of my lands for growing onions. What is it that the Government did to me through the Director of Agriculture. The Government advanced Rs. 300 an acre before I planted any onions. As soon as I got the advance, I told the Director of Agriculture, I knew nothing about growing of onions and asked him for instructions. He sent a special Demonstrator to instruct me. With this advance of Rs. 300 and the free services of an onion demonstrator, I wanted also to make sure that I was not cheated in the end. I wanted also to stipulate the price at which the onions would be taken back, and they agreed to a price of Rs. 12 per 100 lb. A formal agreement was signed by me with the Government of Madras that I should supply a certain quantity of onions for the Military within 4½ months. Sir, it was supplied,

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and supplied in a quantity beyond the expectation of even the department. It is not my desire to reveal what profit I made. (Laughter.) It is not the concern of the House or anybody to know. but the fact remains, Sir, that the onions were produced and were handed over to the Military to their entire satisfaction."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Producers would like to know what profit you made."

* DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It will vary with the cleverness of the cultivator. (Laughter.) An ignorant doctor like me who cultivates land might have made a little less than others. However, I do not think the Income-tax Department will come down upon me if I say that I made a profit of Rs. 600 per acre. It is not my intention to lay claim to any great performance, but I wish only to point out that the thing is possible, and that the Government have done it. I wish to remind the House that the same Government which produced the onions on the scale in which it was done can in the next 4½ months given the necessary resources and the will can produce the food they require to make up the deficit of barely 3½ lakhs of tons before next October. There are possibilities of doing that. That is a question in which every one can be interested to know what should be done. One of our Ministers, Mr. Bhasyam came over to Trichinopoly; I am sailing in good company because he has been a lawyer practising in Madras and I have been a medical man for a number of years in Trichinopoly. Neither of us can speak with authority; he was intelligent enough. He got information through his own officers. He suggested that in that particular taluk in Trichinopoly district, a short crop might be produced within 3 or 4 months. Under his inspiration a circular was sent round by the Collector to the Tahsildars. The Tahsildar, not knowing what to do, got at me in my village; I am now a villager, ripping open land and not abducting people. The Tahsildar asked me what I can do; I told him that I could give him some quantity of paddy by altering the rotation of crops; but there were still crops on the land. It will take another month to harvest the produce. After that period a fresh crop can be grown. The loyal agriculturist tells me that after 2 crops, the land is terribly exhausted; even if famine is coming, the land cannot yield more. It will disappoint the farmer to venture into such a business. I said to the Tahsildar 'give me three bags of groundnut cake and half a bag of ammonium sulphate per acre.' The cost will come to Rs. 37-8-0 per acre. 'Give me not rupees but manure worth Rs. 37-8-0. My exhausted land must have some food.' I can tell this House that a 'seasoned agriculturist is a very shrewd and clever man. The Indian agriculturist is not a fool, as many people imagine. I have learnt much from him which I did not know before. Even the Agricultural department may well use the illiterate farmer and get much knowledge from him. The village agriculturist is a very sound and far-thinking man. If I can give this man some manure—not for him, but for the soil which he has exhausted—he can produce some crop or other. You can go and secure the

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produce through your agency. Within 3 or 4 months we want paddy very badly. I gave the above advice to the Tahsildar. I do not know what the unfortunate Tahsildar did later on. It has a big financial implication. I am not concerned with it; the Government ask people to grow more food. This is what I want the Government to do. I want the Government to consult the Agricultural department; they must encourage the ryot to take money from the Government and use it for the land. Otherwise you cannot produce the food you want. The present circuitous procedure takes the lives of the population. The procedure is circuitous and dilatory; the problem cannot be solved by files of papers with red tapes circulating in the Secretariat. Food must be produced by men in the field. You must deal with the agriculturist direct and give him the help he requires. That is my first proposition. I promised to repay the amount I had taken from the Government”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Was a sum of Rs. 300 paid in addition to Rs. 600? The agriculturist would like to know what the hon. Member did. Did the Government give a subsidy of Rs. 300 and recover it from the agriculturist? ”

*** DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—**“ Of course it was taken back. I said ‘ net ’. The Government have not lost money; it has gained in other ways. It is not a bad speculation, of advancing money under proper security and safeguards.

“ With regard to the procurement campaign of food, my own feeling is this; there should be two sets of plans, a short-time plan to produce food within three or four months and a long-range plan which is more costly and with better investment. By having a long-range programme, waste lands can be brought into cultivation; there should be intensive cultivation, more yield and the ryot who works on the land should live under better economic conditions. These two plans should be linked together; the chain should be well linked if food is to be produced quickly.

“ My own feeling is that this problem is not going to be solved in three months; it will take a decade. The hon. Premier mentioned yesterday that the repercussions of the last devastating war would re-act on the people of this country for even 10 years. Any Government which has at heart the welfare of our people, will have to plan out thoroughly to meet this danger for a decade, food-shortage being perhaps the worst; of course there is the cloth shortage also. I can speak with a certain amount of authority. I knew that this war was going to produce food-shortage and so I thought that, having resigned my Ministership, the only happiness for me was to go back to land and begin to till it. For my sin I could get hold of only barren land; I made the barren land alive. Barren land is yielding now. For the last four years the Government have been getting from me various quantities of paddy. Like any sensible person the Government insisted on its getting back a certain amount of paddy from me after my keeping some quantity for my own use. I may assure the House that the Government officers, the Agricultural Department, the Grain-Purchasing Officer,

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the Tahsildar and others have been dealing with me fairly. You may say 'you were a Minister; you have gone back to agriculture'. I quite admit it may be so. They may have done so in my case; it is a matter for my personal gratification and I mention it to the House. I know also how many neighbours of mine did not get such help. I wish to give the devil its due, wherever it is due. I must be grateful to them. They perhaps thought that I had left my profession and out of sympathy, they came to my help. They did help I must confess in this House.

" Apart from that, I have given 400 kalams of fine paddy seed to the department; they were getting from me 100 kalams; I have increased the supply. The department does not give me anything. I got grain seeds from it. Much attention should be paid to the necessity of more production of food and the State has to do a great deal to help the ryots. Having had opportunities of working on my land I may say I did not depend on the efforts of the Public Works Department to provide me with water. I had employed machinery; I had employed electric energy; water was pumped from a great distance away, which the department would not at any time have dreamt of doing. It was good of course that the department sanctioned the scheme although it looked to be more or less a bad scheme when it started. The Revenue Board with whom I got into contract promised to help me with water for 100 acres of land which nobody ever thought to be fit for cultivation. It was possible; it is possible. The old adage is 'whatever you invest on land, it never deserts you; it is not a bank debtor which goes on borrowing on paper. Whatever money you put on land, it is there, as long as the land is there. Whatever amount is put on land, it is paid back either immediately or later; it depends on the skill of the ryot. It is a true saying; putting money on the land is a very good proposition even for private investment.

" Apart from that, lands, more lands and many more lands can be brought under cultivation as I have done. Water can be supplied by electric energy. Even as a short-range programme, a great amount of intensive cultivation and production is possible. It is left to private enterprise. Government should help private enterprise for more production. Such help should be generous, more than generous and should be quick and immediate. I have not been quiet after this Ministry has taken over office. I have suggested to it a programme; I said that within 12 months from now I could supply 1,000 kalams of good paddy grain from a barren land; I have communicated my request to all the Ministers, to the Civil Supplies Commissioner and to the Agricultural Department also. I am mentioning these facts, because I think the Government are serious to get more food; I offer more. The Government should help the agriculturists I ask for nothing. I am prepared to give more. Let not the Government ask the ryots to take takavi loans, to go to the village munsif, pay the mamool, then go to the Revenue Inspector, the Tahsildar and the whole hog of officialdom. It takes two years for the Government to sanction takavi loan; till that time the man must be living to carry out his task. I want to bring this point to the notice of the

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House because there is likely to be a famine very soon. The officials should be asked to give grants to the ryots without much delay. This is my point No. 2. So far, with regard to various methods of procurement suggested in the report placed by the hon. Premier before the House.

4 p.m.

" I wish to bring to the notice of the House one or two more points. ' Prevent waste ' is a very good maxim. The question I wish to put is who is wasting. Does the poor man in the village waste food? He picks up grain one after another from morning to evening to get quarter measure of paddy. Is that man going to waste his paddy? I ask ' has he got enough to eat ' ; leave alone his wasting; It is not the poor man that wastes food; It is the man who has got enough and more; he must perform marriages and feed 500 or 1,000 persons. There are temple administrations. Two hundred measures of prasadam are offered to God and they are distributed to worshippers; in many places food is distributed as wages. The Government should not interfere in such cases. There is the custom or habit of providing food to some people in this way. Why, live birds, animals and fowls are killed in their dozens to please Gods who never wanted them. I mention to you all these things only to show the common beliefs of people. So, it is more the higher classes that require careful attention and checking in regard to waste. Gandhiji writes of course ' do not eat, do not waste ' and all that. Gandhiji has given so many instructions, numerous instructions, seriatim, and that not once or twice, but so many times. But Gandhiji seems to be antedated, an old man whose words are quite good no doubt but which can never be acted upon. But that is the fault of all saints and nobody can easily follow their advice. So, prevention of waste, if it is to be effective, should be not by the people but by the Government. It is the Government that should see and check waste. Fifty persons for a marriage, I want the Government to make sure if only fifty men eat in a marriage and whether fifty alone partake in the meal. Or, for the matter of that, why not, under the stress of conditions, say that no food will be given for marriages? Why not stop with the giving of thambulam and a little of sugarcandy if necessary? For the matter of that, if you are sure of more rice being obtained, you engage more cooks and more food is prepared and more people are fed and there is much expenditure all round. Of course it is difficult to enforce that; because even if one or two people perhaps agree to such a course, you cannot expect the ordinary man to agree; he will say : ' Yes, but, Sir, a marriage comes only once in a life-time; I shall spend whatever I can and feed my friends and relations; if I am not able to get rice, I will buy in the black-market and somehow get on '. And people are accustomed to all that. So then, it is all pious advice which is hard to act upon, especially on a national scale. It is really very difficult, I agree, but still, efforts should be made with the hope that things will improve.

" Then, Sir, I come to ' intensive procurement '. Quite true: I suppose even with all the intensive procurement, this 3,36,000 tons will still remain. I think it was only after an experience of

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intensive procurement that this figure has been worked out. I am glad Mr. Prakasam has constituted a committee which will go into the matter in a business like way. Procurement is either democratic or autocratic or even almost Hitlerian in its methods. For, Sir, I know in a village next to mine, only last week, a posse of policemen were marched into a storage godown stored by a mirasdar of the place. The Grain Purchasing Officer said one day: "well, you have got so much of paddy, you must give it to the Government". The villager said: "We have not yet divided the paddy between the varamdars and myself; we should meet and divide our particular shares and then alone I can give you what remains". The reply of the officer was: 'you are cheating, you have got so much paddy with you' but the man said 'I am not going to hand over; you may take if you like'. What happened of course was that policemen were marched into that village at about 7 o'clock at night when it was dark and the grain could not be measured because it was all dark. They just removed the straw and without measuring all the bags, they simply counted the bags and took them away and left the place. No doubt it may be said the mirasdar will get the money; yes, he will, but I ask you, is this the method to be adopted? If that is the sort of threat that is held over his head, what else can he do? And what will be his feeling in the matter? I say that is not the way of doing things. It may be alright so far as you are concerned; but after all, mind you it is the mirasdar that has got to produce an impression in the village; he has got to be your spokesman in the village. I am glad the hon. the Premier said that the chief men in the village should explain to the villagers the steps taken by the Government. Will anybody explain if things are done in this way? It must be by adopting calculated and careful methods that you must do it. If perhaps those people had been given a week's notice, it might have gone a long way towards smoothening matters. I am simply giving this one instance out of the many that have come to my notice. And it should not be said that I am myself complaining, because, as I told you, I have been treated very fairly by the officers. This is only one of the hardships that I know of. Generally, that is done. And of course both the poor and the rich mirasdars are victims to such things; but generally the rich mirasdars escape; they get scot-free probably because they are clever enough to cheat the procurement officers. It is the poor mirasdars that almost invariably come to grief. And I ask you, what is the meaning of giving three ration cards printed on blank paper to these people in the place of three kalams of paddy that they have in their houses? I ask anybody in this House to say whether this exchange is not very disgusting and disappointing. The man who gets the card is not the sort of man who knows anything about rationing and the experience of people who have already got the cards and suffered on that account will not help him. Therefore you have got to see that a man who has got two or three kalams of paddy just to tide over any emergencies, is not teased in any way; it is wrong and unfair to deprive him of that small quantity on the promise of a ration card. He has to take this ration card to a

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distance of five miles, he has to leave off his job and probably spend a whole day, probably losing his day's work; and at the end of the day, he is not quite sure if he will get his ration because the ration shopkeeper may say 'it is not available now; come to-morrow'. So, what I say is: do not grab at every man who has got some small quantity. You must scrutinize the quantity that he has, leave off a share for the man and then, after duly informing him, you must take the extra quantity left over. This is the flaw in the present procurement system. It must be, in my opinion, based on a more scientific and rational policy. It is not everybody that can come and argue with the procurement officer. You must have some regard for that point.

"Then again, Sir, there has been a reduction in the scale of rice ration. Well, Sir, it is good enough for the high class people; they do not suffer from the reduction, because the reduction from 12 to 10 ounces, speaking as a medical man, is not scientifically correct. The 12 ounce of rice that you get is deficient in everything that a man requires for healthy life. 2,700 calories is the minimum that is required for an Indian and you are giving him less than a 1,000 calories in this 12 ounces. You may, of course turn round and tell me, 'what, the famine is there staring us in the face; you must be able to get on with this'. But you must not give this rice which is lacking in the many vital things which are necessary for keeping an ordinary healthy existence. Do you know how many millions of people died in Bengal two years ago? I for one do not think that they all died for want of rice; I think they died more because of want of a balanced food. After every food shortage, it is not the actual famine that kills the people so much as the diseases that come in its wake. What happened in Malabar two years ago, you may all remember. It is not the famine; it is from the food that a man gets all the diseases on the earth; and it is from those diseases that the man dies afterwards. Perhaps if you take statistics, you will be told that people died from disease; and perhaps it will be very creditable for the food department to turn round and say 'no, so many died of disease, not on account of food shortage' and all that. But what happens actually? Mostly the man dies as an underfed person; and it is the State that must take the responsibility for that. Now the Prime Minister says that the ration is reduced from 12 to 10 ounces; and what is it that you give him instead? You must give him something else in proportion. Wheat? Yes, I can understand your giving him wheat; and we are getting it. It will however take some time for the poor man's stomach to get accustomed to it, and that too, only if a temptation is offered. But let me tell you, wheat does not by itself give him all that he wants. A balanced diet does not mean only more wheat. It means something more. At once my friends may turn round and say 'we are giving groundnuts'. But where is the groundnut, I ask; that is the next question. For, the Government ordered last year that we should not grow groundnuts. I have got the order myself. Every year as an alternate crop for paddy, people used to grow

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one paddy crop and one groundnut crop. They said: if you are baling out water, you should not produce groundnut; you must produce only paddy. That is the order I got. I generally produce Rs. 5,000 worth of paddy as second crop and I have got to keep it up. Now however I am told that I can carry on with groundnut. But what a loss of food for the country? Moreover, I cannot now grow groundnut. So, what I say is that in the carrying out of a policy in regard to food and food articles, there is not much consideration bestowed. I can give you one instance. The Tahsildar of Musiri came and told me 'from the next fasli, all plantain cultivation should stop'. He said he was going to write to the Collector; because he said 'you should all convert plantain gardens into paddy fields'. I think it is not correct; it is misconceived, for plantain is a food of a high quality. It contains starch and it does not require cooking, which is a great advantage for the poor man. Plantain is to-day selling at half an anna each and if he goes to the bazaar and buys plantains for two annas, it is much the same for him as a good meal and he gets half the food that he requires. This plantain, because it is unrestricted, goes to Coimbatore, Salem and other hungry stations and it fetches a good price I know. And if you stop producing plantain, what are you going to do? I warn you that if immediately after plantain you grow paddy, you reduce the turnover by as much as fifty per cent. Plantain is one of the many crops which requires much soil nourishment and after two or three crops, the soil becomes completely dead and you have got to keep the land one year without growing anything at all, then level it up and then grow paddy. Even then, if paddy is not coming up well, you will at least get straw for the animals and in these days, as you know, even the animals are not getting proper food, and therefore paddy is grown with a view to get straw at least. The other day I saw that the Civil Supplies Commissioner wrote in the Press 'I have so many thousands of tons of rice to be distributed in the Province: ' but a sorry tale it will be if I go into details. Unfortunately, all these thousands of tons of rice have come to us as powdered or pounded rice; and so you are asked to eat the pounded rice, not actual rice. But there is something more insidious in it; and it is this; if it is so bad, i.e., if the pounded rice is so bad—as generally it is—give it away to the cattle. That is what he says. I am glad, Sir, the Government have given that advice; because we know that animals are not in better state than the people and probably the animals will thank the Commissioner for giving the people this kind of advice and that is also true after all; for the people are asking food for the cattle also. Of course, the Civil Supplies Commissioner will say: ' what, I have got thousands of tons of rice and I have been asked to distribute them; after all I must say the truth, for, this pounded rice contains some whole rice also for which you are paying'. And yet, how many processes have to be gone through before even this rice reaches the poor man?

" There is only one more point which I would like to bring to your notice. The Government have already ordered the grant

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of a bonus of Rs. 15 per acre for the cultivation of short-term crops'. We are very thankful to the Government for having announced it. But I would like to know how many people have taken advantage of this bonus; it will be interesting to know how many lakhs of rupees have been taken up by the agriculturists at the rate of this Rs. 15 that has been promised. I can tell you, without any fear of contradiction, that I went to many villages and have consulted many people about this and I said 'well, this is a good business'. In fact, I may say I have cultivated myself; and to my regret, I must inform this House, that not one single cultivator in my area would take advantage of this Rs. 15 offer. I asked them why, and they said: "If I take this Rs. 15, I am finished; because the Government are going to take away every bit of grain that I produce and in return I will get only this Rs. 15". That is what they say. They are all so frightened about the methods adopted by the Government. Even this temptation of Rs. 15 has not attracted them to take full advantage of the crop. That is the point I want to bring to your notice, so that the Government may devise better methods of advancing the object they have in view. I would suggest a subsidy, whatever the amount may be, on the produce, on the paddy produced by the agriculturist. That is a less frightful procedure than the Rs. 15 payment and the taking away of the crop. Out of this Rs. 15 one rupee will go to the village munsif, another to the karnam and Rs. 2 to the Revenue Inspector and if after all, the cultivator gets this Rs. 15 it is only after walking for at least five days to the Taluk office (laughter) and seeing so many different people from top to bottom." And that is the fact, Sir, and it is a bare ugly fact.

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"Then, Sir, you have got the sinking of irrigation wells. It is a very wise scheme. As soon as I got the Government Order on the subject, I wrote to the Tahsildar saying that I am prepared to sink four wells. To my surprise, the next day Rs. 1,200 was in my house when I returned in the evening. I was indeed very grateful for the very prompt and immediate payment of the amount by the Tahsildar and for the goodness with which he gave Rs. 300 for each well. But the condition is that before the 15th of June I must dig the wells. I went 17 miles to procure the men necessary to dig the wells. I went to Salem, I went to Coimbatore, to fetch the men and the men came after a lot of persuasion. They came with their families and with all their utensils and squatted in my house demanding food. I gave them paddy. That is all right. What happened. The first well was going to be finished. It was dug 20 feet deep according to the orders of Government and what was my budget; Rs. 1,300, i.e., practically the amount given by Government for four wells and it was not sufficient even for one well. After all from a well which would cost Rs. 300 you will get only 2 oz. of water. Then, Rs. 300 can only be taken by a man who can afford to spend another Rs. 1,000 for each well. It is therefore no relief to the poor man at all. It is all good for advertisement purposes of the Government, but what is actually required is water for irrigation purposes.

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“ As Health Minister I know what happened in Salem with regard to big well irrigation schemes. 120 feet was dug and at the end of which there was not even a drop of water and the contractor spent all the amount budgeted for. The Inspector went there for inspection of the work, and what the contractor did was, he filled one-fourth of the well with water brought from outside. At the inspection it was all passed, since copious water was shown by the contractor. Four days afterwards there was no drop of water in it and the money spent on it has gone to waste. Sir, that is not the sort of three hundred rupees well that the Government want. If you like I can dig a well on the beach or in Mambalam for Rs. 300. But, it is supposed to be for producing short-term crops before the next July. How on earth can you raise crop on a barren land by digging a well of this sort. The land has to be made fit for cultivation. There is a certain amount of want of knowledge in regard to distribution and other things which proper agriculturists alone can deal with. Mere digging of wells cannot produce the produce required. Therefore, Sir, this amount of Rs. 300 is all right for those who have got another Rs. 1,000 to spend on the well. I am sure wells are not going to function unless more money is spent on them as I said before.

“ Then, Sir, manures and seeds are proposed to be distributed at concessional rates. Here again, I can get it, but my villagers cannot get it, because of the rush in the agricultural depots and the sort of things going on there. Unless a better system is devised, I am sure the present method of distribution will not meet the requirements of the people.

“ There is then the popularisation of subsidiary food-stuffs. This I submit it only for better class people, and the poor man does not get anything. You know the poor people eat raw plantains straight from the tree. It is no exaggeration when I say that one day I found some plantains were missing from a tree in my garden. I asked one of my workmen and he told the truth and he said that he ate them up and that they were very nice and he further unearthed a little earth and showed me the six peels of plantains he had buried. It is not these people that would at all be helped by these substitute foods. Here, I can only give you one suggestion. To-day jaggery can be treated as food but it is not produced for food. It is produced as toddy because the revenues of the province may swell. The poor man gets very good wages, say at the rate of Re. 1 per day and a woman from 8 to 12 annas per day. How does this Rs. 30 a month out of which he gets only a proportion for himself and the rest goes to the excise revenues, help the village. So, Sir, the agricultural population will never increase their status unless this drain is stopped. How will it be stopped? You are not going to have another Sales Tax. It has enough bad odour about it. What I wish to say is that this sweet juice without being fermented can be converted into jaggery and used as food. This unfermented juice in which the tapper will have full work and in which the Abkari department will have full work, will be a substantial addition to the food problem in the country. If you do not want to continue this after the famine

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is over, you can do so and for this purpose in every village there are many coconut trees, eechan trees and palmyrah trees and ever so many other varieties of trees whose sweet juice is a good nourishment for the poor man and what is more, it contains vitamin which the fermented toddy does not contain.

"In regard to the prices being made reasonable, I cannot understand how they are reasonable. Every department must consider all the aspects before they fix the prices. What has been done with regard to agricultural products to-day is that no investigation is made and such investigation as is supposed to be made at present is entirely out-of-date. As a matter of fact a landlord had to spend about Rs. 50 for cultivating an acre of land and that is the actual amount I used to spend on an acre of land for cultivating paddy. To-day I am spending anything from Rs. 125 to 130 per acre because the cost of cultivation has gone up. I can prove this by facts and figures and I am not discussing it academically, because I am maintaining my accounts relating to receipts and expenditure on my lands. If it is taken into consideration and if the produce of the land is to be properly assessed by Government and if they actually do not want the poor man to be burdened with extra cost, what I would suggest is subsidise the poor man because that is the right way to go about the business. The producer has got to feed himself as well as his cattle. Again, Sir, the cost of feeding the cattle has gone to unimaginable proportions. For instance, the cost of a bundle of hay which was four annas previously has now risen to Rs. 4 and such being the case, how can the cultivator find the means whereby he can feed himself and the cattle which is the mainstay of a cultivator as otherwise he cannot cultivate his lands. It is therefore quite essential for him to keep alive the cattle if he wants to cultivate his lands and feed himself. It is therefore, Sir, absolutely essential for Government to devise means for enabling the poor man to maintain his cattle and for this purpose Government must control cattle food. This is not only the main thing that is required, but hay, straw and a hundred and one other things will have to be controlled if the poor man has to be protected in a proper manner. You simply say "I am taking away all your paddy"; of course, you can do it once but cannot do it repeatedly.

"There is again, Sir, the question of popularisation of subsidiary foods. I want to mention this at this stage. There is enormous sea-coast in our province and there is a vast sea. I am not a man who eats fish regularly or even habitually, but I am sure fishes can be got in plenty along our sea-coast (Interruption). Perhaps my hon. Friend can give you better opinion than I can on catching fish, curing and preserving them and sending them to other places. Fish is no doubt a very good food and it is a food which contains protein. I wish here to throw out a suggestion. You have got enough vessels and if you get only the R.I.N. personnel and train them in fishing in the sea, it will go a long way towards tackling the food problem.

"Now on the question of oil, Sir, I wish to say, one cannot dispense with it; you must have sufficient quantity of oil and

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what is its price to-day. It is beyond the means of a poor man. He does not even require salt, but he must have oil and its price has now risen to such a terrific figure that the poor man cannot get the oil required for him. I would like the Government to consider this aspect of the matter to enable the poor man to preserve his health.

“ There is another important matter on which I would like to say a few words. It is in regard to the use of sweet potatoes and so on. Not more than 10 per cent of the root diet should be given to an ordinary man, otherwise he gets either indigestion or diarrhoea and therefore you should not ask the poor man to swallow ton loads of these roots. The village man after all gets only sweet potatoes and does not get anything else.

“ In regard to the question of the use of Sappers and Miners for the purpose of digging wells, I suggest that this grant of Rs. 300 for a well may be safely taken away by the department and that they may arrange for the services of the whole force of Sappers and Miners for digging these wells and since they are experienced men they could dig more wells per day than what a poor villager can do. They have got the necessary machinery, and the skill required for the purpose. Thus the poor villager who has to spend about Rs. 1,200 for a well even though Rs. 300 per well is granted by the Government, can be saved a great deal, both in the matter of money and in the matter of procuring the labour for it. Why not the Government address the Military Department and the Government of India in the matter and see whether such a possibility cannot be achieved. Unless this is made a concern of the State nothing tangible can be achieved. For this purpose, you can certainly ask the agriculturists to pay at the rate of Rs. 5 or 10 extra or take something from his produce as extra for the work done on the well, but what is required is, do it well, thoroughly and quickly and it is only then that the food problem of the province can be solved much more easily and within a short space of 4-30 p.m. time. There are other things involving long-term processes; but it is not my purpose to deal with them here. I suggest to the Government that there are such possibilities and doing the distribution fairly; but I would like to warn the Government and the Hon. the Premier—not that he does not know it—that these committees are not going to work satisfactorily. What with their quarrels, underground tricks of some of them and the degeneration of public character among our village population—I do not blame them for it as the qualities that contribute to the proper working of the village system have been allowed to lie dormant and perhaps die—control and guidance is necessary. Please do not allow the village community to manage the whole thing on their own responsibility. The co-operative societies might have worked all right; but we have also seen how the panchayats have worked. Therefore, it is that I say that things should not be left to themselves. Let there be an authority to take the advice of the villagers get into the truth and not sit on them and persecute them but make the villager feel that they are friends that have come to advise and guide them. Let them take full and effective control

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and advise the Government as to the amount of food available. If once people understand that the Committees are their friends, the scheme will work very well. But look at the villagers, the sight of a solitary policeman is sure to put them out of their wits; the reason is that they have been ground down and crushed all these years. As providing an effective authority functioning for purposes of dealing with the food procurement of the village, I fully concur with the scheme; but the facts that I have mentioned must be taken into account.

“ I regret I am not able to speak with that amount of personal knowledge so far as the cloth question goes. For one thing I have not been bothered on account of this cloth question for I prepare my own cloth. I am glad that the Government have after all recognized the injustice that they had been doing to khadder. Lakhs of bales of yarn are lying at Tiruppur because the weavers will not weave khadder yarn. Even old weavers who were weaving khadder yarn will not touch it because weaving with mill yarn puts more money into their hands. We have requested that the old khadder weavers should turn over to khadder weaving and if more khadder yarn is forthcoming more weavers should be asked to weave khadder. I admit khadder is very costly and it is the weaving charge that puts up the cost of khadder. Apart from the question of cost, khadder has got a great potential value in the matter of relieving the cloth situation in the Province. But the agency which has been in charge of it has not been particularly strong though enthusiasm has not been wanting. I want that the khadder question be immediately taken up by means of state agency for clothing the people who stand in need of it. Even I will go to the extent of making certain class of people spin a required quantity of khadder yarn not free but for wages. Then the yarn thus produced might be asked to be woven at competitive rates. I am, however, glad that the cloth situation in the Province is much better than the food question. I am glad that some sort of control is going to be introduced for handloom cloth. But my experience goes to show that the moment the price of a certain article is controlled then from that time, it passes out of the reach of the ordinary individual. It disappears from the market altogether. I would like the Government to bear in mind this aspect of the question when they impose controls. Some control seems necessary in order to fight soaring prices but we should not also allow the things to go to the blackmarket. I agree that if we are going to introduce ration, there is danger of the handloom cloth going down in production. As the owner of a chemists shop, I know how effective has been the system of controls in that trade and such sort of effective control will be welcome so that the poor people may be able to buy handloom cloth at reasonable prices. Of late there has been an increase in the number of looms. It is quite natural. There was a short supply of foreign cloth and material was not coming from Manchester as usual and when there was the prospect of some gain by the construction of some looms, people were not slow to take advantage of it. But the whole question has been made very complicated and the yarn quotas do not reach

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the poor weaver proportionately to their number and even if the yarn reaches them, their looms have to remain idle for more than ten days in a month. I urge that a successful plan must be evolved assuring fair distribution of yarn and blackmarketing in yarn which is in vogue both in the mills and also amongst the weavers ought to be prevented."

SRI A. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA :— “నా అభిప్రాయం ఏమిటంటే ప్రపంచంలో ప్రజలకు రైతు ప్రధానము. అటువంటి ఆధారభూతమైన రైతును ఏ ప్రభుత్వం అయినా సరే నెగ్లెక్టు (neglect) చెయ్యకూడదని నా అభిప్రాయం. భూమి వివిధముగా అభివృద్ధి అగుతుంటే రైతునకు నచ్చచెప్పాలి ప్రభుత్వం. అంతే కాదు వానికి డబ్బులేదు. రైతు ఏ రోజున పండించి ఇంటికొస్తాడో ఆరోజే అమ్ముతాడు. నిలువ డబ్బు ఉండదు. వానికి ఇమ్మీడియేటు (immediate) గా మెన్యూరు (manure) చెయ్యలేదు. మెన్యూరు చెయ్యడానికి, తగిన గవర్నమెంటువారే ఆలోచించవలయును. మూడు చూసములు తరువాత, ఆరు మాసములు తరువాత మెన్యూరు చెయ్యడమువల్ల ప్రయోజనంలేదు. ముందుగా వేసేటట్టి మెన్యూరువల్ల లాభం ఉంది. 1st జూన్ నుండి మెన్యూరు వేస్తే లాభం. దీనిగురించి సరితయిన ఆలోచన చెయ్యవలసి ఉంటుంది. కనీసము end of June కు అయినా మెన్యూరు ఇచ్చేటట్లు గవర్నమెంటువారు ఆలోచించవలయును. గవర్నమెంటువారు రైతుకు ఎరువు ఇచ్చి Agricultural Officer's suggestion ప్రకారం ఆ సంవత్సరం సెప్టెంబర్ రెమిషియన్ ఇస్తాము అని గవర్నమెంటువారు చెప్పవలెను. అక్టోబరులోగాని, నవంబరులోగాని crop వస్తుంది. ముదరా ఇస్తే రైతు ఏ కోరికపరేటివు సౌనెటితో అయినా ఆపు తీసుకొనవచ్చి అయినా మెన్యూరు చెయ్యగలడు. మెన్యూరు మనకు చాలా important. సాధారణముగా 3, 4 బస్తాలు కావలెను. ఇందునుగురించి గవర్నమెంటువారు తగిన ఆలోచన చేసి immediate గా మెన్యూరు ఇచ్చేటట్లుగాని, ముదరా ఇచ్చేటట్లుగాని విప్పాటు చెయ్యవలెనని నేను కోరుచున్నాను.”

The House adjourned to meet again at 5 p.m. the next day.

IV.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

1. The Bill to amend the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Act, 1937 (Legislative Assembly Bill No. 1 of 1946) passed by the Assembly and received therefrom in the Council.

2. Notification appended to G.O. No. 1268, Home, dated 24th April 1946, making certain amendments to Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published with Home Department Notification No. 357, dated the 29th March 1940, as subsequently amended.

[28th May 1946]

APPENDIX

[Vide item II at page 27 supra.]

L.A. BILL No. 1 OF 1946.

A Bill to amend the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Act, 1937.

(As passed by the Assembly.)

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Act, 1937, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

Short title and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications (Amendment) Act, 1946.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of May 1946:

Provided that travelling allowances may be paid under clause (a) of section 6-A of the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Act, 1937, as amended by this Act, in respect of any journey performed before that date.

2. In the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications

Amendment of section 2,
Madras Act IX of 1937.

Act, 1937 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), in section 2 which relates to the Prime Minister and the other Ministers, for the words "a salary of rupees five hundred per mensem, a house rent allowance of rupees one hundred per mensem and a conveyance allowance of rupees one hundred and fifty per mensem", the following words shall be substituted, namely:—

"a salary of rupees one thousand per mensem, a house rent allowance of rupees two hundred and fifty per mensem and a conveyance allowance of rupees two hundred and fifty per mensem; but the house rent allowance shall not be paid to any Minister if he occupies a house provided by the Provincial Government, free of rent".

Amendment of section 3,
Madras Act IX of 1937.

3. In section 3 of the said Act—
(i) in sub-section (1) which relates to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, for the words "a salary of rupees five hundred per mensem, a house-rent allowance of rupees one hundred per mensem and a conveyance allowance of rupees one hundred and fifty per mensem", the following words shall be substituted, namely:—

"a salary of rupees one thousand per mensem, a house rent allowance of rupees two hundred and fifty per mensem and a conveyance allowance of rupees two hundred and fifty per mensem; but the house rent allowance shall not be paid to the Speaker if he occupies a house provided by the Provincial Government, free of rent";

(ii) in sub-section (2) which relates to the Deputy Speaker of the said Assembly, for the words "a salary of rupees one hundred and fifty per mensem", the words "a salary of rupees three hundred per mensem" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 4,
Madras Act IX of 1937.

4. In section 4 of the said Act—
(i) in sub-section (1) which relates to the President of the Legislative Council, for the words "a salary of rupees two hundred and fifty per mensem, a house rent allowance of rupees one hundred per mensem and a conveyance allowance of rupees one hundred and fifty per mensem", the following words shall be substituted, namely:—

"a salary of rupees five hundred per mensem, a house rent allowance of rupees two hundred and fifty per mensem and a conveyance allowance of

Madras
Act IX
of 1937.

Madras
Act IX
of 1937.

Madras
Act IX
of 1937.

28th May 1946]

rupees two hundred and fifty per mensem; but the house rent allowance shall not be paid to the President if he occupies a house provided by the Provincial Government, free of rent”;

(ii) in sub-section (2) which relates to the Deputy President of the said Council, for the words “a salary of rupees one hundred and fifty per mensem”, the words “a salary of rupees three hundred per mensem” shall be substituted.

Substitution of new section for section 5, Madras Act IX of 1937.

Salaries of Parliamentary Secretaries.
“5. There shall be paid to the Chief Parliamentary Secretary a salary of rupees six hundred per mensem and to each of the other Parliamentary Secretaries a salary of rupees five hundred per mensem.

5. For section 5 of the said Act which relates to Parliamentary Secretaries, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

There shall also be paid to each of the Parliamentary Secretaries, including the Chief Parliamentary Secretary, a consolidated house rent and conveyance allowance of rupees two hundred and fifty per mensem.”

6. In section 6 of the said Act which relates to the provision of conveyances, for the words “the Ministers and the Speaker”, the words “the Ministers, the Speaker and the President” shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 6, Madras Act IX of 1937.

Insertion of new section 6-A in Madras Act IX of 1937.
“6-A. A Minister, the Speaker, the President, or a Parliamentary Secretary shall be entitled to travelling allowances for himself and the members of his family and for the transport of his personal effects, at such rates and upon such conditions as may be determined by the Provincial Government—

7. After section 6 of the said Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

(a) in respect of the journey for assuming office to the City of Madras from his usual place of residence in the Province of Madras, if such place is outside the City, and

(b) in respect of the journey on relinquishing office, from the City of Madras to his usual place of residence in the Province before he assumed office, if such place is outside the City.”

8. (1) In the said Act, section 9 which relates to members of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) of section 9.

(2) In clause (a) of sub-section (1) aforesaid, for the words “a salary of rupees seventy-five per mensem”, the words “a salary of rupees one hundred and fifty per mensem” shall be substituted.

(3) After sub-section (1) aforesaid, the following sub-section shall be added, namely:—

“(2) The salary referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (1) shall accrue to a member from the date on which he is declared duly elected, or in the case of a member chosen by the Governor in his discretion to fill a seat in the Legislative Council, from the date on which he is so chosen, or, if such declaration or choice is made before the vacancy occurs, from the date of occurrence of the vacancy:

Provided that such salary shall not be paid until the member has made and subscribed the oath or affirmation of allegiance prescribed by the Government of India Act, 1935.”

[28th May 1946]

9. For section 10 of the said Act which relates to the relinquishment of salaries and allowances, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

Substitution of new section for section 10, Madras Act IX of 1937.

Relinquishment of salaries and allowances and cancellation thereof.

“10. (1) Any person entitled to any salary or allowance under this Act may at any time—

- (i) relinquish the whole or any portion of such salary or allowance ; and
- (ii) cancel such relinquishment.

(2) Such relinquishment or cancellation shall be made in writing and shall take effect at such time and subject to such conditions as the Provincial Government may, by rules, determine.

(3) For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared—

(a) that a relinquishment may be made under clause (i) of sub-section (1) even after a previous relinquishment has been cancelled under clause (ii) of that sub-section ; and

(b) that a relinquishment made before the 1st day of May 1946 shall be deemed to have been made under clause (i) of sub-section (1) and is liable to be cancelled under clause (ii) of that sub-section.”

10. Nothing contained in this Act shall, save as otherwise specified in the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 1, be deemed to authorize the payment of any salary or allowance to any person in respect of the period before the 1st day of May 1946.

No salary or allowance payable for period before 1st May 1946.

வாய்மையே வெல்லும்
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS